



**YORKSHIRE
RARE AND SCARCE
BIRDS REPORT 2003**

YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

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BIRDS REPORT 2003

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Sales of this Report are facilitated by the co-operation of wardens from the RSBP and the
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Front Cover Photograph: Great Spotted Cuckoo, Spurn, M.C. Richardson

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INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgements

Thanks are again due to the assistance of the editors of local bird reports in the county, and the Vice-County Recorders who collected, collated and adjudicated on records. Particular thanks are due to the writers, Mike Barnett (petrels to Spoonbill, waders to terns), Geoff Dobbs (auks to Hoopoe), Jim Pewtress (geese to raptors), Craig Thomas (divers and grebes, Eurasian Wryneck to Cetti's Warbler) and Russell Slack (rest of the passerines). Craig also contributed by writing the Calendar this year. Thanks are extended to Jim Pewtress for once again drawing the graphs and maps, to Paul Leonard for his super artwork, and to the photographers Mike Ashforth, Gary Dayes, John Harriman, Andrew Lassey, Iain Leach, Roy Lyon, Mike Richardson, Garry Taylor and Darren Ward. Mike Palmer, of Palm Group Limited, generously gave up his time to help with the final editing and improve the overall production.

Thanks also are due to the staff and wardens of Spurn Point YWT Reserve, and Bempton and Blacktoft RSPB reserves, who have either sold or assisted with sales, of YNU Reports.

Dale Middleton resigned as VC 6I Recorder at the end of 2004, and although records he helped to adjudicate on are yet to be published in the next report, the Committee wants to thank him for his help and expertise in making decisions concerning judging rarity descriptions. The Committee now welcomes his replacement, Craig Thomas, to whom all records for VC6I should now be sent.

Highlights

The pick of the rarity reports for 2003 included a number of species previously hard to see in the county that showed particularly well. Pride of place can be allocated to the first-summer male Taiga Flycatcher that was trapped at Flamborough Head on 26th April, remaining to 29th. This has now been confirmed by the BOU as both a first for the county and for Britain. Another undoubted highlight was the Great Spotted Cuckoo that stayed for almost a fortnight at Spurn Point in July to feast on caterpillars, the second county record. The county's third Pallid Harrier, this time a spring bird at Spurn, was neither shot nor only seen by a single observer, but it did not linger long enough to be appreciated by more than a fortunate few. The county's third Citrine Wagtail was Filey's second, staying but a half-day in September. A Pine Bunting briefly at Flamborough Head in November comprised the county's fourth.

The county's fifth Bonaparte's Gull, found at Fairburn Ings, was appreciated by many during its almost month-long stay. Five observers in total had only seen the previous four birds. Yet another Madeira/Cape Verde (Fea's/Zino's) Petrel, the county's seventh, passed Flamborough Head, but birders there are still not able to add it specifically to their Yorkshire list, or any other list for that matter. Also a county seventh was a rare spring Blyth's Reed Warbler, singing at Spurn Point in early June. A Melodious Warbler at South Gare struggled on as the eighth due to difficulties in its identification. The eighth Baird's Sandpiper, at Nosterfield in September, presented no problems, and stayed long enough to delight a number of observers, as did the eighth Lesser Yellowlegs, at Thorne Moors in late April and early May. The county's ninth

Whiskered Tern, at Tophill Low, put in a much briefer appearance on 14th June, moving on quickly to Nottinghamshire. Equally elusive was the county's ninth Laughing Gull, which was briefly seen on the River Tees from Middlesbrough on 17th July.

Rare breeding birds had mixed fortunes. Black-necked Grebes bred at three sites, but not in the Lower Derwent Valley, where the management regime of reduced water levels is not assisting this species. Great Bittern bred at Blacktoft, and at least two pairs of Honey Buzzards were confirmed in the county, with a successful outcome for once at the well-known site due to a change in the composition of the pair. The large number of other birds recorded in summer at that site leads to conjecture about the species future status in the county. At least three calling male Spotted Crakes were heard in the Lower Derwent Valley, where reduced water levels are less of a problem for this species. No reports were received for breeding Corn Crake however. Common Cranes summered and displayed in the county and breeding must surely now be imminent. Nine singing Nightingales were recorded on Thorne Moors, but territorial singing there was reported to be down this year.

Of the rare and scarce migrants, a brief summary of the year includes the following. Two Yellow-billed Divers were found in February on the favoured North Yorkshire coast, but one unfortunately died after being picked up. Low numbers of wintering grebes on the coast. Low numbers of rarer shearwaters were recorded, with only seven Cory's and no Greats, but record numbers of tape-lured European Storm-petrels were trapped at three sites, and 24 displaced Leach's Petrels included inland birds at Rother Valley CP and Southfield Res.

The number of wintering Great Bitterns reached record levels for recent years in both winter periods. Whether this is due to our milder winters, or a genuine population increase in northern Europe, is unclear. Also maintaining an increase in line with its national expansion, 57 reports of Little Egret were received. Three Great Egrets records upheld this species' position as a now regular visitor to the county. There was a small influx of Bean Geese in November, and those identified were once again of the smaller Tundra form *rossicus*. The records of Egyptian Goose are also increasing, and it may not be long before this species becomes a feral breeder. Another feral breeding exotic, Mandarin Duck, is also increasing, with 35 birds recorded at its stronghold at Harewood Park. Of the scarcer ducks, the county's 16th American Wigeon was recorded at Scalby, a Green-winged Teal toured East Yorkshire, four Ring-necked Ducks were recorded and the county's 18th Surf Scoter was seen off Filey Brigg.

Five Honey Buzzard records were accepted for birds away from the breeding sites, but a further five reports were not submitted. Similarly, seven Montagu's Harriers were accepted, with a further four not submitted. Four Rough-legged Buzzards were seen, with a further two lowland records not submitted. Obtaining adequate descriptions based on often all too brief sightings continues to pose a problem for observers. With one record of each the preceding species rejected, together with the only report of Black Kite (also by BBRC), raptors also pose a particular problem for the Reports Committee. Fortunately, the two Golden Eagles seen over Gouthwaite in January were well described. Surprisingly, in view of its continued breeding success, the passage of Ospreys was slightly down on previous years. A Red-footed Falcon in June completed the array of raptors.

There was a good spring passage of Common Cranes, although record duplication of wandering birds creates a problem in trying to determine exactly how many birds were involved. A Stone-Curlew on Thorne Moors was a good find. 2003 was also a good year for Nearctic waders, with three or four American Golden Plovers, single White-rumped, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a Lesser Yellowlegs and at least ten Pectoral Sandpipers. A further three undescribed Pectoral Sandpipers were reported, with the absence of descriptions from Blacktoft Sands RSPB posing a particular, but thankfully short-lived, problem this year. This problem also

affected the number of accepted Temminck's Stints, but seven were still recorded in spring. There was an excellent autumn passage of 15 Grey Phalaropes.

Passage of Long-tailed Skuas, with 56 recorded, was considerably down compared to recent years, but 15 Sabine's Gulls was only just below recent averages. Yellow-legged Gull numbers stabilised, and the county's fourth and fifth Caspian Gulls were added. As gulls from the south spread northwards, so gulls from the north retreat and become scarcer. The numbers of both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were less than half the totals for 2002. The lack of a prolonged winter cold spell and a reduction in the region's fishing industry may both be contributory factors, especially for the latter species. Perhaps global warming is affecting these species. Conversely, the number of Roseate Terns recorded was well above average, with 81 reports, despite the country's breeding population continuing to struggle. A White-winged Tern was seen for the sixth successive year, this time at Pulfin and High Eske Reserve (PHENR). The 31st January saw an exceptional northward coastal movement of at least 10,000 Little Auks after they had been displaced by gales over the previous two days. Despite their seemingly anomalous inclusion in this Report, one must remember that there were only 18 in total in 2000, they are rare inland and can be scarce even on the coast outside just a few peak days of passage.

An Alpine Swift over Otley on 26th April was an excellent find, whilst the customary European Bee-eaters, this time just two, flew south along the Spurn peninsular. An exceptional seven reports of Hoopoe were received, equalling the number of reports of Wryneck. Cowbar produced a winter record of a Greater Short-toed Lark, and contributed 29 of the 88 Horned Lark records for the year, an improvement on the previous two years. Of the remaining southern migrants, there were two Red-rumped Swallows, at Kilnsea and Flamborough, a Tawny Pipit at Spurn as well as the previously mentioned Melodious Warbler at South Gare. Six of the year's eight Red-backed Shrikes, passed through in spring. This was quite a good spring showing, but the autumn total was the lowest for many years. A Cetti's Warbler was seen at Tophill Low NR in November.

Drift and eastern migrants were variable in numbers. A dozen Richard's Pipits was exactly on par. The two Olive-backed Pipits however, one each at Filey and Spurn, were the first since 1994. Two Grey-headed Wagtails were recorded but no migrant Common Nightingales were found on the coast and only one Bluethroat; only one Marsh Warbler and seven Icterine Warblers were reported; there was only one Subalpine Warbler, a late autumn bird, and the total of 12 Barred Warblers was half that for each of the previous two years. It was decidedly a good year for "*Phylloscopus*", with two Greenish Warblers found at Filey, an Arctic Warbler at Kilnsea, two Radde's Warblers in the Spurn area, three Dusky Warblers, one at Brotton and two at Filey, and a Western Bonelli's Warbler at Kilnsea. These were accompaniment to 114 Yellow-browed Leaf Warblers, at least five Hume's Leaf Warblers and an incredible 74 Pallas's Leaf Warblers, almost a third of all previous recorded birds in the county. 82 Firecrests were also reported, double the usual expected, many of these arriving with the coastal falls of warblers that commenced on 13th October. The 18 Red-breasted Flycatchers arrived mostly in two waves, on 27th September and 13th October.

There was a reasonable spring passage of Great Grey Shrikes, and an autumn influx. The total of seven Hooded Crows was well above that for recent years, four Rosy Starlings almost a return to normality, the usual single Spurn Serin, just four Common Rosefinches, although the showy bird at Scarborough in June more than made up for the lack of numbers, and just two Ortolan Buntings. For only the second year since 1983, the other being 1995, there were no reports of Little Bunting.

CALENDAR 2003

January

Although the year started with cold northerlies, a westerly airstream and subsequent mild temperatures dominated the month. Not surprisingly Nearctic wildfowl featured strongly, the highlight a first winter Lesser Scaup on Hornsea Mere from the 11th. The first in the county for six years, it was followed by two others before spring was out. Two Ring-necked Ducks lingered from 2002, with a female remaining at North Cave and a first winter at East Park Lake, Hull. A female American Wigeon played hard to get, within a flock of its commoner cousins at Scalby Mills from the 13th to 15th, a drake Ring-necked Duck was on the sea off Scalby Mills on the 18th and a Green-winged Teal was at Watton NR on the 26th. Relatively mild weather encouraged 'eastern' passerines to over-winter in the county; a Short-toed Lark at Cowbar from the 4th and a Richard's Pipit at Birley Edge, near Sheffield from the 14th would have been creditable finds even in peak migration season. Two Golden Eagles over Gouthwaite Reservoir on the 22nd proved that this species could still reach Yorkshire, even with the demise of the famous Lake District pair. Finally, the month ended with a low pressure system centred over the western half of Norway and the subsequent blast of northerly winds was responsible for a huge displacement of Little Auks. Although most vantage points recorded the species re-orientating northwards on the 31st, Flamborough recorded the most, with an amazing 9,822 during the day.

February

With winds continuing to feed in from a northerly direction, attention on the coast focussed on seabirds displaced from northern climes. Although last month's huge movement of Little Auks ended almost as soon as it began,

there was a notable movement of large divers. Five Great Northern Divers logged passing Flamborough on the 2nd were the forerunners to two Yellow-billed Divers in the county; the first was unfortunately picked up moribund in North Bay, Scarborough on the 4th, while the second delighted birders at Cloughton Wyke till dusk on the 8th. Away from the coast, the year's second first-winter Lesser Scaup identified at New Swillington Ings on the 16th, pleased those who had neglected an earlier trip to Hornsea. With light south-easterlies, feeding off a huge high pressure over the continent, an early movement of Cranes could be expected. However, the flock of nine over Scalby Lodge Pond on the 23rd must still have excited the fortunate observers.

March

Crane sightings continued during the first fortnight of March. Presumably different from the Scalby nine, were four which drifted south over Filey on the 1st, as a party of nine then drifted east over Blacktoft the next day. Apart from three south over Holmpton on the 11th, only two were recorded thereafter. The first of the year's four Rough-legged Buzzards was on Sherburn Carrs from the 9th. Often alongside its commoner cousins, visitors were impressed by how well Common Buzzards had established in the area. Birders encouraged to seawatch due to northerly winds on the 12th found themselves rewarded with an early Balearic Shearwater past Flamborough and a Black Guillemot from the Marine Drive, Scarborough. The wintering flock of Horned Larks peaked at 29 at Cowbar on the 16th, from which date a Caspian Gull made intermittent appearances into April at New Swillington Ings, to the frustration of many. The year's first Osprey flew over Blacktoft on



Western Bonelli's Warbler

Kilnsea, September 2003

J. Harriman



Great Spotted Cuckoo

Spurn, July 2003

M. Ashforth



Montagu's Harrier

Spurn Point, May 2003

J. Harriman



Bonaparte's Gull

Fairburn, Ings, April 2003

I. H. Leach



Bonaparte's Gull

Fairburn, Ings, April 2003

I. H. Leach



Yellow-browed Warbler

Kilnsea, October 2003

J. Harriman



Greenish Warbler

Filey CP, September 2003

J. Harriman



Richard's Pipit

Birley Edge, Sheffield, January 2003

I. H. Leach

the 21st, while a Great Grey Shrike at Tophill Low on the 24th also undoubtedly headed for northern breeding grounds. A Great White Egret north over the Humber at New Ferriby on the 29th acted as a further reminder that spring migration was well under way.

April

Cold northerly air off a blocking high pressure system in early April, suppressed temperatures particularly on the coast. Nevertheless the only 'fools' on the first were birders who neglected to drive to Spurn, where a male Pallid Harrier delighted those present from mid-afternoon till dusk. A Lesser Scaup at Potteric Carr from the 2nd completed the year's triplicate, with a drake at Winterset from the 7th. Watton NR was then the place to be with a migrant Shore Lark on the 9th and a drake Ring-necked Duck on the 13th-14th. A rewarding check through a Golden Plover flock on the 12th produced the year's first Dotterel at Hoodstorth, but things then quietened down until the Bank Holiday weekend. A quick thinking birder diverted from the traffic jams on the A1 to visit Fairburn Ings on the 18th – the result, Yorkshire's first ever twitchable Bonaparte's Gull delighting many into May. Dominated by light south/south-easterly winds, the latter half of April brought a succession of quality migrants to the county. A Wryneck at Spurn on the 20th was predictable considering the weather, but a Rosy Starling seen on the same day at Redcar was much more unusual. A Red-rumped Swallow re-orientating south through Kilnsea on the 23rd may well have overshoot on the same winds as the previous two species. Light south-easterlies and overnight rain on the 26th were responsible for an Alpine Swift over Otley and better still, the UK's first ever Taiga Flycatcher at Flamborough. Increased observer coverage due to the presence of this mega led to the discovery of the month's second Red-rumped Swallow over

Flamborough on the 27th. The protracted stay of a Lesser Yellowlegs at Thorne Moors also from the 27th led many birders to visit this amazing wilderness for the first time. A fantastic April ended with a Golden Oriole at Tophill Low and a Hoopoe at North Newbould on the last day of the month.

May

Inevitably after such a rewarding April, May was dominated by a series of Atlantic weather systems and the resultant westerly airflow ensured a quiet month. Warm southerlies induced a Tawny Pipit to overshoot to Spurn on the 3rd and a Wryneck was discovered at Boulby Cliffs on the same date. Similar weather conditions were undoubtedly responsible for the first Temminck's Stint at Nosterfield NR also on the 3rd and the same site was the place to be next day, when an American Golden Plover grabbed the headlines. A Night Heron at Brompton upon Swale on the 6th was further evidence that not all rarities have to be found in coastal areas. The westerly airflow was broken by south-easterlies on the 15th – however, it is still hard to explain the Little Auk picked up at Filey on that unusual date. Less unexpected were the Grey-headed Wagtail at Scalby Lodge Pond on the 16th and the Serin at Spurn on the following day. Thereafter, south-westerlies re-established and new arrivals dried up until near the month end, when a high pressure system centered over Denmark introduced south-easterly winds. An Icterine Warbler at Flamborough on the 26th was the forerunner to single Red-backed Shrikes there and at Throxenby Mere on the 29th. However, the main prize went to South Gare on the final day of May, but unfortunately the Melodious Warbler was only identified later from photographs.

June

The warmest June since 1976, there was hot, dry weather throughout. Unfortunately, the male Red-footed Falcon that flew south through Scalby Mills on the opening day of the month was not spotted at other coastal watch-points. A Common Rosefinch at Flamborough on the 5th was less admired than the showy male Common Rosefinch that set up territory at Scarborough from the 8th - showing better than most, it even sang from lampposts along the cliff top street. A low pressure in the North Sea introduced northerlies on the 9th; consequently, Spurn had one of its fabulous June days, with Blyth's Reed Warbler, European Bee-eater and Common Rosefinch entertaining those present. At the opposite end of the county, a Rosy Starling at South Gare on the 10th brightened proceedings. Spurn soon responded with a Bluethroat on the 11th and its second

European Bee-eater of the month a week later. Reflecting the Mediterranean climate, a Whiskered Tern briefly at Tophill Low was not altogether surprising - undoubtedly, what must have been the same individual soon took up residence in Nottinghamshire. A female Red-necked Phalarope at Spurn on the 21st preceded the first Cory's Shearwater of the year off Flamborough by a day.

July

With high pressure just to the east of the UK, the weather continued to be hot and dry, fed by light southerly winds. Although a sub-adult Laughing Gull stayed for two days on Teesside, it only skipped south over the border to Middlesbrough briefly on the 17th - much to the chagrin of the more youthful county listers, who have waited over twenty years for a stayer. With continued soaring temperatures, the two Great White Egrets that took up temporary



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residence at Denaby Ings from the 19th must have felt at home. One of the birds of the year turned up on the same day, with the discovery of a Great Spotted Cuckoo at Spurn. A glut of both tiger moth caterpillars and birders descended, but only the latter were pleased that the cuckoo was in no rush to leave! Thorne Moors hosted a Stone Curlew from the 24th, while a Hoopoe at Cayton Bay two days later brought a touch of colour. Close inspection of wader flocks at Spurn resulted in an adult White-rumped Sandpiper on the 27th, while a White-winged Black Tern graced the skies over PHENR on the last day of July.

August

The incredibly hot summer ended in the final week, and only then did scarce migrants start to move. A Hoopoe enlivened Spurn on the 5th, while a light onshore breeze was responsible for an early Greenish Warbler at Filey on the 12th. PHENR played host to a Pectoral Sandpiper on the 14th and a small movement of Long-tailed Skuas peaked at six north past Flamborough two days later. A small area of high pressure centred north of the UK, combined with a large low pressure system over southern Scandinavia, ensured cool northerlies for the final days of August. Resulting from this change was a Wryneck at Grimston on the 24th, followed by an Arctic Warbler at Kilnsea the next day. Further Wrynecks appeared at Crook Ness on the 26th and at Spurn two days later. August ended with a Barred Warbler at Spurn on the 31st.

September

High pressure featured throughout with light onshore winds drifting occasional scarce migrants onto the coast. The 2nd saw a Wryneck at Flamborough, whilst a Rosy Starling was at Spurn next day. Filey's second Greenish Warbler of the autumn lingered from the 4th and, as a high pressure established over

Scandinavia, the early Richard's Pipit and Ortolan Bunting at Spurn on the 6th were not wholly unexpected. However, September brings birds from all points of the compass and to add to the interest emanating from Scandinavia, were a Night Heron at Hornsea Mere and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Fairburn Ings on the 8th, the latter the first of an impressive nine autumn records. Brompton hosted a Wryneck on the 10th, while an unprecedented build up of Roseate Terns at Spurn peaked at eleven the next day. With high observer coverage at the latter site, further discoveries were inevitable – two Common Rosefinches on the 13th were the forerunners to an Ortolan Bunting next day and a Red-backed Shrike on the 15th. It was hard going elsewhere with fine weather preventing any chance of a fall. The county's only Marsh Warbler of the year trapped at Spurn on the 19th, constituted only the third ever autumn record. It was hard to fathom why the region was blessed with three American waders over the 20th/21st – a juvenile American Golden Plover at Old Moor and a widely appreciated Baird's Sandpiper at Nosterfield NR on the 20th, were followed by a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Cromer Point, Scarborough next day. Also on the 21st, but from the opposite side of the world, a Citrine Wagtail at Filey illustrated anything is possible in September. A Grey-headed Wagtail overshot the coast when it was located feeding in fields at Blacktoft on the 25th. Light north-easterlies on the 27th prompted six Long-tailed Skuas past Flamborough, but the real prizes were on the land; Yellow-browed Warblers appeared at Filey, Spurn and Easington and four Red-breasted Flycatchers were shared between Flamborough and Spurn. As the high pressure nudged further into Scandinavia, another nine Yellow-browed Warblers appeared before the month end. The final day of September witnessed east meeting west once again; a Western Bonelli's Warbler graced Spurn, a Hoopoe played hard to get at Filey and a

diligent search through plovers at Bishopthorpe, York rewarded with an adult American Golden Plover.

October

October started with light north-easterlies, a Radde's Warbler at Spurn and a Richard's Pipit at Whitestone Point on the 1st. Next day produced a Hoopoe at Castle Howard and a Richard's Pipit at Flamborough. Westerlies then re-established, stalling passerine arrival from the east for ten days. No species exemplifies this better than the Yellow-browed Warbler – ten appeared during the first two days of October, with no fresh arrivals until the 13th. A second Radde's Warbler at Spurn and a Broad-billed Sandpiper at Sunk Island on the 12th were the forerunners to next day's arrivals when a high pressure edged into Norway. The moderate east-south-easterly on the 13th delivered Pallas's Warblers to Filey, Spurn, Flamborough and South Gare, the autumn's second major wave of Yellow-browed Warblers, a Dusky Warbler at Filey and four Red-breasted Flycatchers, four Great Grey Shrikes, a Red-backed Shrike and a Richard's Pipit down the coast. Unprecedented numbers of Pallas's Warblers featured until the middle of November, peaking with six at Flamborough on the 14th. Winds continued from an easterly quarter, with a heavy overcast enveloping the coast more arrivals were inevitable – a Hume's Warbler appeared at Skinningrove on the 15th, preceding the Subalpine Warbler at Easington on the 18th and an Olive-backed Pipit at Filey on the 19th. Flamborough hosted a Hume's Warbler on the 23rd and in a moderate north-easterly wind next day a Fea's Petrel flew north past the headland. Another Hume's Warbler was located at Kilnsea on the 25th, when inland birders finally registered success with the identification of a Caspian Gull at Nosterfield NR. Things quietened considerably as winds became more variable; Dusky Warblers made

landfall at Brotton on the 28th and at Filey next day, and Yellow-browed Warblers still entertained birders along the coast.

November

Southerly winds kept temperatures mild, and whenever they contained an easterly element scarce migrants ensued. A drake Surf Scoter gave good views off Filey Brigg from the 4th, on which date a first winter Ring-necked Duck was identified on Welton Waters. After a weeklong absence of new arrivals, nine Yellow-browed Warblers appeared between the 6th and 9th. Moderate south-easterlies rewarded birders at Easington with a Hume's Warbler on the 8th, then good weekend coverage next day, produced fifteen Horned Larks and a Barred Warbler at Flamborough, a Hume's Warbler at Holmpton and an Olive-backed Pipit at Spurn. To complete their impressive showing, a further Hume's Warbler took up temporary residence in Old Fall from the 10th, with the identification of a female Pine Bunting also at Flamborough next day. The county's last Yellow-browed Warbler graced the trees around Scarborough Castle on the 23rd, while a Cetti's Warbler visited Tophill Low on the 25th. The final eastern migrant of a very creditable autumn was a Richard's Pipit at Spurn on the last day of November.

December

The month was quiet with only reindeer moving through the December skies. Notable wintering birds included four Bitterns at Potteric Carr and three at Winterset, 16 Velvet Scoter off Saltburn and good numbers of Water Pipits – four wintered at both Blacktoft Sands and Fairburn Ings, two at Dewsbury Sewage Works and singles closed the year at Marbury Sewage Works and at Lower Gorple Reservoir.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2003

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee of the YNU and found to be acceptable on the evidence supplied by the observers. Records that require national verification have been submitted and accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (BBRC). The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (sixth edition, 1992), updated BOU 2001. All BOURC Category A and Category C species that comprise species on the British List are included in the Systematic List.

ABBREVIATIONS

BPNR	Beacon Ponds Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
LDNNR	Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
PHENR	Puffin and High Eske Nature Reserve
Res	Reservoir
RVCP	Rother Valley Country Park
SF	Sewage Farm
TLNR	Tophill Low Nature Reserve

SPECIES STATUS

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire as included within five Watsonian vice-counties.

Vagrant	Up to 10 records in total since records began
Rare	1-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Scarce	11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Uncommon	101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years

SPECIES TOTALS in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last four years, including the current year.

PREVIOUS RECORDS referred to in the status line in this report refer to the number of previous records, not including the current year, accepted by the YNU. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of BBRC, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. In a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of European Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and some waders).

SPECIES

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

166,74,107,73,68

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

Small numbers breed in Scotland, but the origin of most of our winter visitors are from Scandinavia and northern Russia.

The long-stayer at Pugney's CP opened the year, remaining until 7th February. Four singles were logged at Flamborough in January, with a further two singles flying north past Spurn on 12th and 17th. Flamborough tallied twelve bird/days during February, with a best of three on 15th. Three other singles in February, north past Spurn on 3rd, off South Gare on 16th and in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 28th. Three singles along the Scarborough coastline in March; off Cromer Point on 2nd, a splendid summer-plumaged adult in Jackson's Bay on 15th and a different individual in Burniston Bay two days later. Additional March records included two past Flamborough on 2nd and 5th and a single past Ulrome on the 8th.

The autumn's first headed into stiff northerly winds off Flamborough and Spurn on August 25th. Singles were off Cowbar on 29th and 31st presumably displaced by the same winds. Four singles at Flamborough in September, with two on 13th, one north at Spurn on 24th, followed by a single on the sea there next day. Only two singles were noted past Flamborough in October, but elsewhere there were singles in South Bay, Scarborough on 16th, south at Spurn on 19th and at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 28th. During November, Flamborough recorded twelve birds on six dates. One was again in Jackson's Bay on 14th and one in Filey Bay, initially at Reighton Gap on 21st. Flamborough contributed singles on seven days in December, with the only other south past Filey Brigg on 14th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

158,105,122,83,52

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species.

January's only records were of singles off Flamborough on 17th and 31st. However, strong northerlies at the month end/early February induced a movement; five flew past Flamborough on 2nd, in addition to seven singles in February and two on the 15th. Elsewhere, one flew north at Spurn Point on 17th February, seen later at BPNR. One spent the opening day of March in Filey Bay, one flew north past Spurn on 8th and the final March records came on 12th; two at Flamborough and one off Marine Drive, Scarborough. Spring passage ended with one off Flamborough on 7th April and the last south at Spurn on 14th.

One past Flamborough on 10th July was an isolated mid-summer record. Northerlies at the end of August prompted an early movement, with singles past Flamborough on 25th and one south at Cowbar on 31st. Nothing then until late September with one past Filey and the only inland record of the year when a summer-plumaged adult stayed at TLNR from 25th to 27th (PWI: RL: JPH *et al*). October singles at Flamborough on 13th, 19th, 28th, three at Filey over the same period and south at Spurn on 19th. November proved to be the best month of the

year; two singles past both Filey and Flamborough during the month, with two at the latter site on 26th.

Two singles on the sea off Redcar on 6th November and two stayed in Filey Bay from 9th to 15th. A single was off Saltburn on 11th, one took up temporary residence in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough from 17th November to 12th December and a single flew north at Spurn on 27th November. December opened with two off Flamborough on 1st, five singles there and three at Filey before the close of the year. One flew south at Scarborough South Bay on 6th and one was again off Saltburn on 27th.

YELLOW-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii*
Rare winter visitor; 24 previous records

1,1,0,0,2

Breeds from western Siberia east to Canada, wintering coastally, with small numbers reaching northwest Europe. Strong northerlies at the end of January/early February were responsible for two singles; the first records since one passed Whitby in September 2000.

An oiled adult, picked up alive in Scarborough North Bay on 4th February, unfortunately succumbed and is now in Woodend Museum, Scarborough (*per BC*). More satisfactory was one feeding north of Scarborough, at Cloughton Wyke, on 8th February. It gave great views feeding on crabs until dusk, but unfortunately had gone next day (*DBy et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:1 pp 22-23.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*
Scarce or uncommon migrant and winter visitor

45,40,26,48,34

Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west.

One took up residence in Filey Bay from 5th January to 13th February, with one at Wykeham Lakes on the former date (*RHA: PW*). Three were off Flamborough on 6th January. Scaling Dam Res hosted a single from 23rd January to 17th February (*JLS et al*), with another taking a liking to freshwater at Hornsea Mere on 28th January (*BR*). Four off Flamborough between 1st and 3rd February surprisingly constituted the month's only sighting. The final record for the first period was one off South Gare on 4th March.

None thereafter until autumn's first decent sea-watching conditions at the end of August brought one north at Flamborough and Filey on 25th that headed into a stiff northerly and another off Flamborough on 31st. Singles followed at the latter location on the 3rd and 16th September, with two past the headland on the 24th. September closed with a single north past Kilnsea on 28th. Flamborough logged one on 4th October, with a juvenile in Scarborough Harbour on the same day. A single went north, past Long Nab, Burniston on 5th when one arrived in Filey Bay; present until 10th November, another joined it on 9th October. Thereafter singles at Flamborough on 8th and 10th, and one off South Gare on 22nd October. Four records in December; on the small freshwater pond at Filey on 6th/7th December (*JH et al*), two off Flamborough on 15th, one on Hornsea Mere on 28th (*BR*) and finally a single on the sea at Skipsea on Boxing Day.

A small population of the larger-billed form breeds in Scotland, but it is the smaller-billed eastern population that breeds from Sweden eastwards that visits us in winter.

The New Year started with one on Welton Waters until 5th January, while Wheldrake Ings hosted a single on 2nd. The only other January record was off Hunmanby Gap, Filey Bay on 19th. The next was also on the sea off Scalby Ness on 14th February, followed by a long stayer at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 20th February to 14th April. A single made a one-day appearance at Ripon Racecourse on 2nd March and one was at Cleasby GP from 16th to 24th March.

The autumn's first was at Hay-a-Park GP from 29th September to 16th October and then a single on Hornsea Mere on 7th and 8th October and again 14th. One took up temporary residence in Filey Bay from 26th October to 6th November, when a second bird joined it. Flamborough recorded its first of the year on 29th October when one was on the sea off South Dykes and one went north past the headland on 1st November. The last of the year in the canal scrape area of Spurn from 11th to 13th November, hit overhead wires and was picked up dead on 14th.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

74,46,59,42,49

Rare recent breeding species, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds sporadically in the county and elsewhere in Britain, with a distribution stretching from Spain eastwards, generally to the south of the preceding species.

One was at Hornsea Mere on 6th January, with possibly the same there on 11th February. Spring passage started with two at Fairburn Ings on 17th March, followed by a series of records in April; singles at Thrybergh CP and North Duffield Carrs on 1st and 2nd April respectively, two on Edderthorpe Flash on 15th, one at Wheldrake Ings on 27th /29th and two in the Harrogate District on 30th April and 1st May. A single lingered on Hornsea Mere from 2nd to 25th May, other May passage birds included; two on Old Moor Wetlands on 19th, one at Beal Carrs on 25th, one at Edderthorpe Flash on 26th, one at Blackmoorfoot Res from 27th through to 27th July and a lone individual stayed for two days at North Cave Wetlands from 31st May.

Due to low water levels, there was no proof of breeding in the Lower Derwent Valley this year, but three pairs bred elsewhere in the county. Adults arrived at Thorne Moors on 19th and 30th March. Three were present by 4th April with the last sighting on 5th June, and three young are thought to have fledged. A pair in the Harrogate District that arrived on site on 7th May soon commenced nest building. The first chick was noted on 25th June, with two present next day. The adults departed on 31st July and 7th August and the one fledged juvenile left two days later. A pair of late arrivals at Potteric Carr were first seen on 27th May, but nevertheless two chicks made their first appearance on 24th June. One adult left on 27th July, the second with a juvenile on 2nd August and the last juvenile departed 5th August.

Singles at Winterset Res on 1st and at Grimwith Res on 25th June were the only new arrivals for the month. Wider dispersal began in July, with a pair at North Cave Wetlands throughout (with one adult until 12th August). Malham Tarn hosted one from 2nd to 12th July and an adult was on Hornsea Mere on 17th July. The latter site attracted three on 4th August, a

single frequented Fairburn Ings from 1st to 14th August and thereafter single juveniles were seen at the following sites; Astley Lake from 7th to 13th, Tophill Low from 7th to 24th, Skelton Lake on 25th August, which relocated to Swillington Ings three days later and remained there until 15th September. The only other September record came from South Gare on 23rd. A single was on Hornsea Mere on 13th October, followed by two there on 12th November. One was again off South Gare on 18th/19th October; one stayed for a few days at Fairburn Ings from 26th October and the year's last was at Stamps Pond, Hempholme on 15th/16th November.

MADEIRA/CAPE VERDE PETREL *Pterodroma feae/madeira* 1,0,1,3,1
Vagrant in late summer/autumn; 6 previous records

P. feae is the more numerous of this species pair, breeding in Madeira and the Cape Verde Isles, and dispersing throughout the North Atlantic, whilst *P. madeira* has a breeding population of only c. 20-30 pairs, but all British records have been accepted as either/or.

One flew north in a brisk north-easterly wind at Flamborough Head on 24th October (PAL: IM).

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* 10,5,41,8,7
Rare late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa, with a separate form *C. d. scopoli* breeding in the Mediterranean. Post-breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

This year all the sightings came from Flamborough Head, the first being one on 22nd June, followed by one on 18th July, with further singles on 9th, 15th, 16th, 23rd and 31st August (BR: PAL: IM: AMA).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* 47,67,57,29,73
Scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post-breeding dispersal takes place. It is a regular visitor to British waters with around 1,000 individuals currently reported annually.

The first for the year was an unseasonal bird past Flamborough Head on 12th March. Single birds were also recorded here on five dates in July, with sixteen seen on nine dates mainly in the latter part of September, including three on 2nd and 27th. In October four were observed on three dates, the last being one on the 19th.

This year there were more sightings at other coastal locations in the County than previous years. In August singles were seen at Filey on 7th (LG: JHo), 24th (JS: CCT: JMT), and 25th (NPS *et al*). Two were seen lingering off Long Nab on 10th (DBy), one on 12th at Scalby Ness (NWA: JHe: GML), with two flying north on 26th (RHA). On the 30th two were seen from Saltwick Nab. On 27th September one flew north at Atwick Gap (MGH), two flew north at Spurn Point (MCI: AH), with a third on the Humber with three Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* (RJS: JS), and one flew north at Cowbar (MRKA).

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

38,41,111,75,119

Scarce coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, coming ashore at night. It disperses southwards in autumn to the South Atlantic, and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, pre-breeding wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring.

This year was one of the best for tape-lured birds with 76 trapped at Flamborough Head between 30th June and 1st September, with peaks of seven on 12th and 16th July and 3rd August. Thirty-nine birds were caught at Filey between 7th July and 1st August, with eleven on 26th July being the most successful night. Further north, three birds were trapped at Marske on 3rd August (DAM).

One bird that flew south at Spurn on 16th August (TMc *et al*) was the only record to be seen on sea watches from the various coastal locations during the year.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

10,4,2,7,23

Rare coastal migrant, usually during late autumn; rare inland

This species breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species in the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans, usually feeding well offshore. It is usually seen after autumn and winter storms.

The first of the year involved a bird caught at Filey on 27th July, which had been ringed in North West Scotland (PJD: CPH: GVW *et al*). A second bird was trapped on 2nd August (PJD *et al*). In September, one flew past Spurn on 12th, with two on 27th (GCT: RS *et al*). Single birds flew north in October on 11th (TMc *et al*), and 13th (AR *et al*). Three at Flamborough on 27th September was the highest total for the year. Single birds also flew past here on 23rd and 28th September, 12th and 13th October, and 3rd and 7th November. Atwick Gap recorded one north on 27th (MGH) with two north on 28th September (MGH).

The only inland record was one that spent most of the day from 9.00am on 24th November at Southfield Res, which was well watched and much appreciated by many birders used to only observing them at a distance on the coast (CF: AM: PG: AS).

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

7,8,19,29,42

Scarce but regular migrant and winter visitor

The small British breeding population is sustained by careful management, and has benefited from recent mild winters. Our winter visitors are augmented by continental immigrants. It breeds across the northern Palearctic, with its main stronghold in central Russia.

Old Moor Wetlands RSPB recorded two or three birds on twenty dates between 1st January and 31st March, with one staying until at least 26th June. What was presumably the same bird was seen at Wombwell Ings on 9th July, returning to Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 12th July when it was heard booming, remaining until 6th September. Winterset Res. produced a record breaking five, possibly six, birds between January and March. Two were observed to leave at dusk on 19th March, another leaving the following evening. In January single birds were seen at Fairburn Ings RSPB on 4th, Pugneys CP from 1st to 14th February and at Sprotborough Flash, one seen

on 15th and 18th was a first site record. Potteric Carr also recorded up to five individuals from the start of the year until 23rd March, with four seen on 5th January, three on 11th January and five on 18th February. One was present throughout January and February at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, with one seen from 8th April to mid July with booming heard on 21st April. On 5th February one was seen at Hornsea Mere.

Unusually for the County, a number of birds were located during the summer months including one that flew over Harrogate on 30th May. In July single birds were recorded at Pugneys CP on 8th, Potteric Carr on 20th and 27th, and one in flight at Winterset Res on 8th August. On 5th August three juveniles were flushed at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, indicating they may well have bred at this site, with one seen on 1st September. Staveley NR hosted two birds on 31st August, one from 5th to 6th September, with two again on 4th.

Autumn sightings began with one at Potteric Carr on 25th October but the middle of November was the peak time to catch up with returning birds. Two were seen here from 7th, three from 30th and for from 16th December. Winterset Res recorded their first returning bird on 26th November, with three seen roosting on 31st December. In November singles were also recorded at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 16th, Bielby on 17th, while one flushed at East Pond TLNR stayed until 20th December. The only bird to be seen on the coast was one at Filey Dams on 10th November.

Great Bittern Distribution 2003



BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 0,1,0,1,2
Rare visitor; 34 previous records

Breeds throughout southern Europe to north-west Africa, and east to Japan. These populations are dispersive and migratory, with juveniles dispersing north-west July to November. Some free-flying birds kept in British collections.

There were two records of this species during the year, one in the spring from 6th to 7th May at Brompton-on-Swale (ARo; Dr Kipling and family), and an adult was observed for fifteen minutes at Hornsea Mere on 8th September (WFC).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

23(36),48,36,57

Scarce visitor in increasing numbers; 158 previous records

Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France, and following post-breeding dispersal from there, the species has established colonies in southern England.

An adult at Hornsea Mere on 27th April was the first record for the year, preceding the main influx, which occurred in May. On 5th May two were seen by the canal between Brighthouse and Elland, one at Nosterfield NR and one flew south along the cliff top at Aldborough. Single birds flew south at Spurn on 6th and 12th, one was on the south bank of the Tees at Coatham Marsh on 8th and one stayed at RVCP from 11th to 12th. At Aldborough one flew south along the cliffs again on the 12th, which was probably the same bird that was seen flying south at Spurn on the same day. Two flew along the Trent at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 19th, with two adults taking up residence there from 27th to 1st June. Two birds also flew over TLNR on 19th. One was found at Beal Carrs on 23rd, one departed Old Moor Wetlands late morning of 28th, two birds appeared later in the evening at nearby Wombwell Ings, and one flew over the headland at Flamborough on 29th.

In June one flew south at Spurn on 2nd, one was seen on various dates between 6th and 20th at Paull Holme Strays, one was at Wheldrake on 7th, and on 12th, one flew in off the sea at Spurn and headed north. The next record was nearly a month later when a single bird was found at Wombwell Ings on 13th July. Single birds flew south at Spurn on 18th and 21st July, two birds were at TLNR on 27th and two birds that flew west along the Aire Valley at Beal Carrs on 31st July, called in at Fairburn Ings, Skelton Lake and Astley Lake at New Swillington Ings before heading back towards Fairburn Ings. On the coast a bird that flew south at Filey Dams on 4th August was seen later in the day heading south at Bempton Cliffs RSPB. The following day two birds were present at Filey Dams, presumably the same two that had earlier flown north at Flamborough. Other August sightings included one at RVCP on 7th and 8th, one at Thrybergh CP on 7th, one at Paull Holme Strays on 12th, a lingering bird at Fairburn Ings from 12th to 15th and singles at Blacktoft Sands RSPB and Brough Haven on 16th and 18th respectively. Two flew down the Aire Valley at Bingley on 25th, one at RVCP from 27th to 28th, and one that roosted overnight from 29th to 30th at North Cave Wetlands was the first record for that site. On 30th August two flew east at Blacktoft Sands.

Considering the number of records this year, it was surprising that none lingered on into the winter months, with only two records in September, one at Hornsea Mere on 8th and one that was seen on various dates between 1st and 23rd at Brough Haven. The last sighting for the year was one at Pugneys CP on 5th October.

GREAT EGRET *Egretta alba*

2,2,2,2,3

Rare late spring and summer vagrant from the Netherlands and south-east Europe; 20 previous records

A small, but increasing, breeding population in Netherlands. Elsewhere in Europe it has a highly fragmented breeding range from France and E Austria to Ukraine, but is generally rare. Most winter in North Africa and the Mediterranean, although a recent trend to over-winter in Central and North-west Europe. This species has now occurred in the county for five years in succession, reflecting its recovery as a breeding species in Europe.

On 29th March one flew north over the Humber at North Ferriby (GW). Two birds arrived from the north west at Denaby Ings on 19th July staying until the 22nd (JDe: PGe *et al*). One bird with colour rings on both legs had been rung as a *pullus* at Lac du Grande Lieu, Loire Atlantique France.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Scarce vagrant, escapes from Harewood confuse status

Once again, the Harewood birds muddy the waters of genuine White Stork occurrences, but the following is a summary of the year's records.

The first was one that flew west over South Cave on 8th April, followed by one at Ripon Parks on 9th, with one over Farnham GP on the same day. At Nosterfield NR one flew over on 11th April, two flew over Ripon Race Course on 13th, with one wandering over Edderthorpe Flash and later Old Moor Wetlands RSPB and New Swillington Ings on 15th. Two were present at Knotford Knook on 20th April. In May one flew over Bishop Monkton on 3rd, two over Staveley NR on 10th, one at Eccup Res and Denton Moor Bingley on 15th, one at Resa Res on 24th and one flew over Bishop Thornton on 30th. The last reported sighting was one at Otley GP on 8th June.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

10,16,25,28,11

Scarce migrant and summer visitor

This species breeds in South-East Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population has recently increased. A pair nested in the UK in 1998, for the first time in over 300 years.

This was a poor year for this species with birds sighted at only six localities in the county with Blacktoft Sands RSPB having the lion's share. An adult there on the 25th April was the first of the year, subsequently seen again on 30th. A second adult appeared on 3rd May, with a third seen on 24th and from 28th to 29th May. Also on 29th two second-summer birds were found, one leaving on 29th June, while the other remained until the end of August, two being sighted again on 4th August.

Elsewhere in the county a first year bird flew in from the west onto Astley Lake, New Swillington Ings, on 4th May, before being chased off leaving to the east (MB: PRM). One that flew north east over Farnham GP on the same date may have been the same bird (JEA: RB: PAL). One flew north-west over Ladybridge Lake on 25th May (AMH: RTP), one was at Nosterfield NR on 28th (SWo), and on 9th June one was seen at Whitton Sands.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*

288,18,19,6,54

Scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds across the northern Palearctic, where divided into a number of subspecies, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is now the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters. This year there was a small influx of birds in November/December, probably all *rossicus*, but observers were cautious in claiming flying birds.

Bean Goose *sp. Anser fabalis fabalis/rossicus*

Thirteen flew south at Flamborough on 9th November (DBY: SH: IM: AMA: PAL), one south at Spurn Point on 13th (MFS), Welton on 3rd December (RL) with 16 at Spurn Point on 10th (PC) and one at Cherry Cobb Sands on 14th (RL).

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis fabalis*

Two were at Wykeham Carrs on 15th and 16th March (RH: IA: PW), one, presumed same, at the same site from 22nd March to 13th April with five on 22nd December (RHA: PW).

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabalis rossicus*

One was at Nosterfield NR on 20th January and 9th February (PC: PCu: AJ). Three at Wykeham Lake from 22nd March to 13th April (RHA: IA: PW). Two adults and four juveniles were at Tophill Low NR from 11th to 15th November (PA), one at BPNR on 11th and 12th, and two at Spurn Point on 15th and 16th.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

3,3,3,9,10

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has very occasionally bred

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium.

One flew south at BPNR and Spurn on 8th February. A regular and presumably escaped or feral bird was at Fairburn Ings from January to March. Two were at Pugney's CP on 2nd May, one at Beal Carrs on 15th May, whilst one at Sprotborough Flash on 8th July was the first for the reserve. An un-ringed adult was at North Cave Wetlands from 13th to 15th August and possibly the same at Hornsea Mere on 18th.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

21,27,67,116,110

Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country

This species is now an established breeder in West Yorkshire, based presumably on escapes from Harewood House, and the number of reports is rapidly increasing.

At Harewood birds were seen throughout the year, often in double figures. 35 were present on 14th December. Elsewhere 20 were at Strid Wood on 3rd January, a male was at Elland GP

from 4th January to 31st May, six were at Hackness Lake on 11th January with six (four males) on 15th and five (three males) on 16th February, with a male at Holmfirth on 17th January. A pair was on the upper lake at Bretton Park on 6th February, a drake at Skelton Castle on 25th March and the pair at Bretton Park was copulating on 28th.

In the early spring period, males were at Eccup Res on 1st and 8th April, Hay-a-Park on 3rd and 5th, Elland on 3rd and High Royd SW on 6th. A pair was at Ripon Racecourse from 24th to 28th and 4th May with one at Castley on 11th May.

Breeding records included two broods of five young each seen at Harewood in May and June, and females with one young seen at Strid Wood and probably the same at Dreby in June. A juvenile was seen at Bolton Abbey on 6th June. Other summer records include four birds seen at Poole in Wharfedale on 29th July. Two males were at Shibden Park on 20th June, and later one there on 2nd and 20th August with two on 4th September and one on 12th December.

Non-breeding birds included a female at Edderthorpe Flash on 30th June, three birds at Elland GP on 20th August, with a male on the canal there on 1st October, and two males at the GP on 16th and 27th November, and 18th December, and a female on 28th December. A male was at Eccup Res on 8th September, a female at Farnham GP on 16th and a pair at Sprotborough Flash from 22nd to 6th December. A pair was at Knotford Nook on 10th October and two males on 17th and a female there on 19th December. A pair remained at Pugney's CP from 21st October to 31st December. A drake was at North Cave Wetlands on 16th November and from 1st to 15th December. A male was at Primrose Valley on 21st November, four birds were at Otley GP on 2nd December, a drake remained at Rother Valley CP from 21st to 31st December and one was at Denaby Ings all month.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

0,1,1,2,1

Rare winter visitor from North America; 15 previous records

Breeds through North America south to the mid-west and winters as far south as Colombia. A regular annual vagrant to the UK.

An adult female was found at Scalby Mills on 13th January (RHA: IA), remaining to 15th.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis*

0,0,4,2,5

Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 43 previous records

Breeds through North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor.

One at Watton NR on 26th January (EJH *et al*) was presumably the same one at Hornsea Mere on 1st February (WFC), Tophill Low NR from 2nd to 5th (MGH *et al*), Hornsea Mere on 24th March (WFC) and at Tophill Low NR on 26th March (PWI).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

8,14,7,15,9

Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections and these probably account for most, if not all the reports.

An un-pinioned female joined the usual pinioned pair at East Park, Hull on 10th January.

A drake was reported from Cleasby GP on 6th April and another or the same drake at Bolton-on-Swale GP from 10th to 13th April. Three remained at Hatfield Moors from July to October. A drake was at Lakeside, Doncaster on 29th August and Winterset Res on 18th October with a pair there from 16th November to 28th December.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

3,6,4,5,4

Rare but regular vagrant, with pattern of returning wintering individuals

This North American duck is now an annual visitor.

Two birds remained from 2002, a female at North Cave Wetlands until 13th January (GAD *et al*) and a first-winter at East Park, Hull until 29th March (RL: EJH *et al*). A drake associated with Eurasian Wigeon at Scalby Mills on 18th January (RHA: PW: DBy *et al*) and presumably a different drake was at Winterset Res from 7th April to 6th May (PS *et al*) with a third drake at Watton NR on 13th and 14th April (MGH *et al*). A first-winter male was seen at Brough Airfield/Welton on 4th November (IM *et al*).

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

0,0,0,0,3

Vagrant: 2 previous records

A common Nearctic duck that winters to northern South America. Previous records were at Anglers CP in 1996 and Tophill Low NR in 1997.

A first-winter drake was at Hornsea Mere from 11th January to 1st February (BR *et al*), and another was at New Swillington Ings from 16th to 23rd (PRM: MP *et al*). A drake was at Potteric Carr on 2nd, 7th and 9th April (SMB: DC *et al*). It is difficult to determine how many individuals were involved, but there was a national influx, and these are counted as separate records. An account of the Hornsea bird is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:1 pp 14-15.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

96,53,131,44,58

Scarce coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and north Norway, and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers.

Single birds were recorded at Tophill Low NR from 1st to 7th January, Flamborough Head on 5th, Hornsea Mere on 6th and 23rd and Flamborough Head on 31st. Birds were also noted at Barmston on 10th March, Spurn Point on 18th April and South Gare on 22nd and 24th May. A single bird at South Gare on 8th July was unusually late.

There were no further records until October, with the first passage noted when three flew south at Spurn Point on 5th, with singles south at Filey Brigg and Spurn on 15th with one in Filey Bay on 17th. From mid-October 21 were recorded at Flamborough Head on five dates with a maximum of seven on 24th. Two were in Filey Bay and two in Scarborough South Bay on 18th, one flew north at Filey Brigg on 19th, with another at Dane's Dyke and presumably the same bird at Bridlington also on 19th. One flew north at Scarborough Marine Drive on 26th.

Inland a single was at Lower Gorple Res on 26th October remaining to 14th November. A first-winter female visited Leeming Res on 20th November and again on 3rd December (MSt *et*

al), visiting Thornton Moors on 21st and again on 19th December and Fly Flatts Res from 21st to 30th November and 7th December.

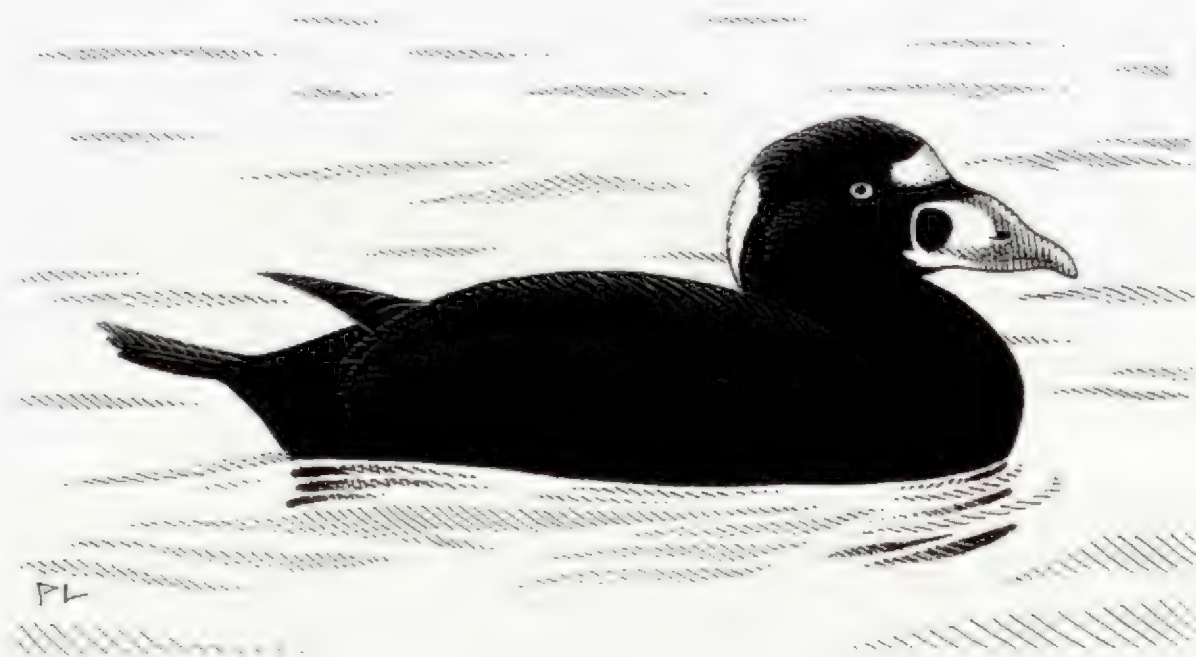
In November on the coast, three singles passed Flamborough Head; singles were at Redcar on 6th, Spurn Point on 7th and Skinningrove on 18th. There were few reports in December with a single at Flamborough Head on 7th, one north at Filey on 8th, two at Flamborough on 23rd with one at Saltburn on 27th.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*
Rare visitor: 17 previous records

0,0,0,2,1

This North American species breeds in Canada and Alaska but is a regular visitor to Britain, with drakes accounting for most sightings.

A male was seen off Filey Brigg from 4th to 6th November (CJ *et al*).



VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*
Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

200,213,168,366,252

This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a scarce winter visitor to the east coast. During late summer, small numbers moult along the North Sea coast among Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* flocks, the earliest arrivals usually adult males, but there is a pronounced passage in October and November.

The only early winter reports were of one at Flamborough Head on 3rd January and two there on 31st.

The first returning bird was at Spurn Point on 3rd July, with four at Flamborough Head on 5th, one at Spurn Point on 18th, one at Flamborough Head on 30th and two on 31st. In

August, singles were at Barmston on 22nd and again on 24th, at Filey Brigg on 26th. Flamborough Head and Cowbar on 26th.

In September there were ten on five dates at Flamborough. Eleven were reported from Staithes on 6th, one was at Spurn Point on 21st with three on 23rd when one was at Barmston. One was at Filey Brigg on 27th with two on 28th, when seven flew north at Atwick in 9.5 hours of sea-watching. In October 12 were reported from Filey Brigg with 32 from Flamborough Head. Two were at Long Nab, Burniston on 4th, three at Atwick on 5th, two at Scarborough Marine Drive on 8th, five at Long Nab, Burniston on 12th, one at Aldbrough on 13th, three at South Gare on 14th, 20 at Fraisthorpe on 16th when one at Marine Drive, Scarborough with three at the latter site on 21st and one on 26th, 46 were reported from Spurn Point in October/November.

15 were recorded at Flamborough Head on seven dates in November with four at Long Nab, Burniston on 2nd, seven off Filey Brigg on 4th, 20 off Redcar on 20th, singles at Filey Brigg on 30th and 14th December with 16 at Saltburn on 16th possibly same as Redcar. 21 reported from Flamborough in December included 10 on 30th.

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

19,168,9,14,20

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

This long-distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving mid- to late May, and leaving from mid-August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants.

One breeding pair raised two young to flying stage, the last juvenile being seen on 22nd September. At the same site an additional eight different adults were recorded (RHA: WFC). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 13: pp 27-31. A pair is also reported to have bred at a site in the Harrogate district.

A passage male was seen flying north at Atwick on 17th May (WFC) and another over Nosterfield on 31st May (SWo). One was seen at Thimbleby on 9th July (CB: AMc), an adult female was at Nosterfield NR on 9th August (SWo), a juvenile was seen over Baitings Wood, Halifax on 3rd September (MCw) and one flew north at Spurn Point on 6th (IDW).

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant: 2 previous records

Breeds on steppe grasslands from Ukraine east through Russia to 100°E and south to Kazakhstan. Occasionally breeds to west of main breeding range in Europe, and a recent westwards expansion may account for increasing reports from Western Europe including Britain. Winters in Africa and the Indian subcontinent. Last recorded in the county in 1993.

Brief sightings were obtained of a superb second-summer/adult male as it flew south Spurn Point at 1530 on 1st April, before it slowly returned north into a strong wind, giving excellent views, being seen up to Marsh Lane, Easington. It was later seen as it U-turned over The Warren. It flew south at Spurn early on the morning on 3rd (AJG: BRS *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:2 pp 70-71.



MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*
Rare migrant: has bred

8,11,13,9,7

The rarest of Britain's three breeding species of harrier, the population has recovered from just one pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north-west Europe east to Siberia. It is a rare spring and autumn migrant in the county, although each year there is a small number of unconfirmed reports.

The first, a male, was seen over Willerby Carr on 2nd May (RHA). A first-year male seen at Easington on 4th May flew south at Spurn Point on 5th (AAH: DRM *et al*) and an adult male also flew south at Spurn on 5th (JGr), reported earlier at Grimston. A male was seen between Aldbrough and Flinton on 9th May (TI: AFJ). A first-year bird lingered at Easington Long Bank and Spurn Point from 22nd to 24th, eventually flying south at Spurn on 24th May (AAH *et al*). A superb male was seen at Blacktoft Sands on 10th July (SDW *et al*), and a ringtail was noted at Fairburn Ings on 31st August (JGI).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*
Rare migrant and winter visitor

0,2,5,2,4

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts in the northern moors.

One was at Scar House Road in Upper Nidderdale, a regular haunt, on 4th January (DV & Mrs. KB), an adult was at Sherburn Ings in the eastern Vale of Pickering from 9th to 13th March (JH *et al*), one flew in off the sea at Filey on 11th April (HJW *et al*) with one at Hunt Cliff, Cleveland on 30th (MAB).

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*
Rare visitor in winter; 21 records since 1870

0,0,0,0,2

The nearest breeding birds are in the Lake District, and probably account for recent records, but wandering birds may come from further north. Nearly all records have been in the north-west of the county in the Gouthwaite/Colsterdale area, with the last being in 1997.

Two (one an immature) were seen at Gouthwaite Res on 22nd January (Mrs. MM: BSI). They were accompanied by three Common Buzzards, one of which constantly dived at the young eagle.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
Scarce but regular passage migrant

80,167,82,78,87

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is migratory, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county.

The first bird of the year was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 21st March with the next ones at Scar House Res on 26th and Winterset Res on 28th. Singles were seen at Thrybergh CP and Ledston on 1st April, Dovestones Res on 2nd, Broomhill Flash on 4th, Pannal on 5th and Bransdale on 7th. One was fishing at Nicholson's Lagoon, Ripon on 11th, and on the same date one flew over Dalton. Further singles were at Fairburn Ings on 16th and 19th, Lindley Wood Res and Barden watchpoint on 18th, Winterset Res on 19th, Staveley NR on 22nd and Blacktoft Sands RSPB, Winterset Res and Hornsea on 23rd. One circled over Spurn Point on 26th, with further singles at Winterset Res on 27th, Cowsby and Lakeside on 28th, Beal Carrs and Primrose Valley on 29th and Bellflask Quarry on 30th.

Passage continued in to early May with singles at Tophill Low on 3rd, Farnham GP on 4th, Filey CP and Spurn Point on 5th, Easington and Old Moor Wetlands on 6th, North Cave Wetlands, Fairburn Ings, Timble Ings and Winterset Res on 7th, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 8th and 10th, Barden watchpoint and Filey CP on 9th, Flamborough Head on 11th, Oxenhope and Potteric Carr on 13th. A few late arrivals included singles at Fairburn Ings on 21st and 25th, one at Filey CP on 24th, one found dead after colliding with pylons at Flamborough Head on 27th, one at Barden watchpoint on 1st June, Long Nab, Burniston on 7th and Blacktoft RSPB on 26th and 28th.

The first returning bird at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 7th July with further singles at Spurn Point on 18th, Potteric Carr on 19th and Filey CP on 28th. Singles were noted at Old Moor Wetlands on 3rd August, Farnham GP on 13th, Wykeham Lakes on 15th and Blacktoft Sands RSPB, Farnham GP and Scaling Dam Res on 17th with the latter staying until 26th. Lindley Wood Res and Winterset Res hosted singles on 23rd and one of these possibly passed through Rother Valley CP on 24th with one at Otley GP on 26th and one at Sandsfield Res on 31st and 1st September. Passage continued in to September with singles at Blacktoft Sands RSPB, on 3rd, Barden watchpoint and Bellflask Quarry on 6th, Farnham GP and Blackmoorfoot Res on 7th, Catwick on 11th Studley Park on 15th and Tophill Low on 15th when there were two at Grimston. One at Barden watchpoint, Spurn Point and Winterset Res on 20th, Scout Dyke Res on 21st, Blackmoorfoot Res on 24th, Sprotborough Flash and Whiteholme Res on 25th and Axle Lane on 27th. A late bird was at Southfield Res on 14th October.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

1,1,1,1,1

Rare migrant; 60 previous records

This species breeds intermittently from the wooded steppes of Eastern Europe east to the Baikal region and winters in South-West Africa. Although its European population is declining, it has recently maintained an annual appearance in the county.

A male, a probable adult, was at Scalby Mills on 1st June (B & Mrs. CR).

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

7,20,5,6,8

Rare breeding summer visitor and migrant

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in Western Europe and in the county, but proof of breeding is difficult to confirm.

A pair of calling birds was heard briefly from the hide at North Duffield Carrs on 3rd May after steady rain eased off in the afternoon (GED). A singing male was heard at Bank Island on 15th May, with two there on 28th May (CSR), and one again there on 5th June (PB: CSR). Presumably the same bird was heard again at Bank Island late morning on 4th September (TW).

In the autumn, a juvenile was seen at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd and 25th while reed cutting and from hide 28th (SDW *et al*), and another bird was seen and photographed at Filey Dams from 26th to 28th September (AD *et al*). A late bird was found at Winterset Res and remained from 1st to 4th November (GJS *et al*).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

1,4,3,5,2

Rare breeding summer visitor and migrant

There has been a long-term decline in the British breeding population, which is now almost entirely confined to north-west Scotland. Spring migrants have sometimes remained and bred in suitable habitat within the county. Migrants, presumably of Scandinavian origin, are occasionally found on the coast.

There were only two reports this year, both at coastal locations in the autumn, although no doubt a number go undetected each year. No potential breeding reports were received. One was seen to land in a ploughed field off Beacon Lane Kilnsea walking into a hedge and disappearing on 28th September (MJB: AJB *et al*), another was found in the Totem Pole Field Filey CP on 30th September (IN).

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

15,11,9,43,28

Scarce migrant

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March. There is a small breeding population in Norfolk, although the wandering birds that appear to be lingering for longer periods in the county are more probably of continental origin.

Following last year's record influx, numbers returned to a normal level, with nearly all sightings in spring. On 23rd February one of the largest flocks ever recorded in the county occurred when nine birds were seen at Scalby Lodge Pond and Scalby Village (MF), relocated on 24th at Burniston (GC). What was surely the same birds were seen eight days later heading east over the Humber at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd March (JoM). Four flew out to sea over Carr Naze Filey CP on 1st March (SC *et al*), with three south over Atwick on 3rd (WF & MC) while three, possibly the same, that flew south at Holmpton on the 11th were found later in the day in a set-a-side field at Easington Long Bank (SN *et al*). In April two flew south at Potteric Carr on the 11th (RB: SMB), with probably the same two birds passing over Old Moor Wetlands on 13th. One, probably an immature bird, was seen in fields west of Tophill Low on 12th and later seen thermalling over Watton NR (NR: CCS). One was at Welwick Marsh on the 26th being seen on the 27th over Easington Long Bank, later that day flying south over Spurn Point (LJD: AAH *et al*).

In the autumn, three were on Nicholson's Lagoon on the morning of 21st September (AC), taking off and flying south at 10 a.m.

Two birds summered in the county and were seen displaying.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oediconemus*

2,0,0,2,1

Rare visitor; 35 records since became extinct as a breeding species in 1930's

This crepuscular species breeds from Western Europe east to SE Asia. In the UK, there are increasing breeding populations in East Anglia and southern England and these birds winter in the Mediterranean and Africa, usually returning in March and April. A long term decline in the British population of this summer visitor in the early part of the 20th century brought about the loss of this species as a breeding bird in Yorkshire in the 1930's.

The only record was a colour-ringed juvenile at Thorne Moors from 24th to 28th July, which was thought to have originally been ringed in East Anglia (BPW *et al*).

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

26,31,39,43,22

Scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; has very occasionally bred

This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, en route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county.

The first of the year was a single bird with Golden Plover at Hoodstorth, Harrogate District, on 12th and 13th April, and again on 24th. One was reported on Pen-y-Ghent on 14th April, followed by one at Cowbar on 24th (MAB: TF), and a first-year caught and ringed at Spurn Point on 27th (PJA *et al*). In May two were at Moulds Top Arkengarthdale on 4th, with three nearby at Greet's Hill on 14th and one on 31st. Two were in fields at Swinefleet on the 10th, and one at Blackmoorfoot Res from 15th to 16th (PDB: CH *et al*).

In the autumn three flew south at Flamborough on 6th August (PAL), five flew over Top Scrub Filey CP on 13th September (PJD: IN), and a juvenile at Wombwell Ings on 3rd October (BE: JHe) was the last record for the year.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*
Rare vagrant; 18 previous records (19 birds)

0,1,0,0,3

This North American wader winters in South America. The last record had been in 2000 at Marske.

An unprecedented three birds were found in the county during the year including a spring bird in breeding plumage at Nosterfield NR that stayed for a few hours on 5th May (AMH *et al*). A juvenile was found at Old Moor Wetlands RSPB on 20th and 22nd September (RSS *et al*) and probably the same bird (BBRC comment) was present on 8th October at Edderthorpe Flash (GJS). A moulting adult found amongst a large flock of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* in a field at Bishopthorpe near York was the most obliging of the four but at times it could be elusive. It was last seen on 7th October (AJB: DP *et al*).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

9,9,14,9,7

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 267 previous records (294 birds)

This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations. A series of reports from Blacktoft Sands this year have yet to be confirmed.

The first was one at Nosterfield NR on 4th May (PVI: SWo), followed by two at PHENR from 11th to 14th (SM: AM). Two different birds seen at Watton NR on 13th were seen later in the day at Swinemoor staying until 15th (MGH). Singles were at Paul Holme Strays on 21st May (BR) and at Nosterfield NR on 23rd May (SWo).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*
Rare vagrant; 22 previous records

0,1,1,1,1

This Nearctic wader breeds in northern Canada and migrates along the eastern U.S. seaboard to winter in South America. Annual visitor in recent years.

An adult was found on the River Humber at Spurn Point on 27th July (JGr *et al*).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER *Calidris bairdii*

0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant from North America; 7 previous records

Breeds from northwest Greenland east to northeast Siberia, wintering in southern South America. First recorded in the county in 1967, the previous two were both seen in 1997.

One was at Nosterfield NR from 11.55 on the morning of 20th September staying until 22nd, during which time it was photographed. The first county record since two were seen in 1997 (AMH *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:3 pp 103-105.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*
Scarce migrant; 119 previous records (128 birds)

3,6,10,7,12

This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county, and it breeds in the tundra of both North America and Siberia, wintering in South America.

One at PHENR on 14th August (BJ) was the first for the year, followed by the first of two sighting at Fairburn Ings, one from 8th to 12th September (JHi: DPAW *et al*) with another or the same bird seen from 28th September to 1st October (BB: DPAW *et al*). At Nicholson's Lagoons, one was seen from 18th September, two from 19th, with three from 20th to 1st October. The two on 19th were also seen at Nosterfield NR (RT: SWo) on the same day. A juvenile was at Filey Dams from 20th to 23rd September (JJ *et al*), a single at Scaling Dam Res on 21st, and one that frequented Head Farm Pond Flamborough from 21st to 25th September was the first record for this site (IM: BH *et al*). Singles were also at Burstwick GP on 22nd September (AFJ), Rimswell from 14th to 15th October (AFJ *et al*), and a late bird was at Broomhill Flash from 14th to 19th October (DJB *et al*).

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*
Rare migrant; 14 previous records (15 birds)

0,1,0,1,1

The European race breeds in boreal forest bogs of north Norway, Sweden and Finland and Arctic Russia, migrating SE to winter in the Persian Gulf, W India and Sri Lanka, and small numbers in E Africa. It is a late spring migrant to the UK with dispersing juveniles from July.

On 12th October, a late juvenile was found on the Humber foreshore west of Patrington Haven (GED). It was flushed by the incoming tide, and despite searching at low tide in the evening could not be relocated.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*
Rare vagrant; 16 previous records (14 birds)

0,2,0,1,1

Breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada, wintering in South America. A scarce visitor to the UK in increasing numbers.

On 21st September, a juvenile was found at in the morning at Cromer Point Scarborough staying until dusk. Originally found feeding with a flock of Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, it later joined a flock of 80 Feral Pigeon (JHe: GML: PSe *et al*).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*
Vagrant; 7 previous records

0,1,1,0,1

A Nearctic wader that winters from southern USA to southern South America. First recorded in the county in 1973.

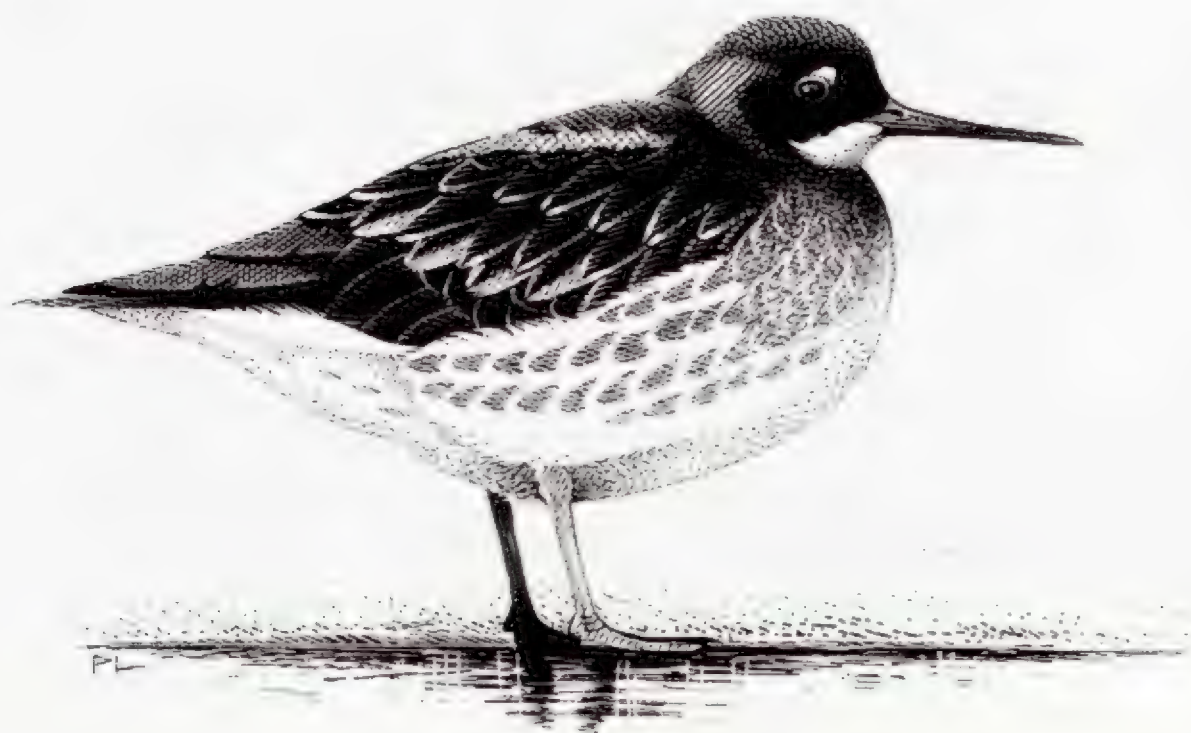
On 27th April an adult was found at Thorne Moors staying until 2nd May giving those who were prepared to undertake the long walk a chance to see it (JB: JBI: JoM: MS *et al*). Was this the same bird that turned up at Hauxley NR Northumberland a few days later?

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

1,4,3,2,2

The Western Palearctic population of this delicate wader extends from northern Scotland eastwards through Scandinavia and northern Russia and migrates overland to winter in the Arabian Sea. It has declined as a British breeder and just a few are now reported annually, with the majority of records from the east coast in autumn.

A female was found on the Humber by the Crown & Anchor at Spurn Point on 21st June (LJD *et al*), and a juvenile was seen on the sea at Flamborough Head before it flew north on 24th October (PAL).



GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

8,4,6,20,17

Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. Its migration routes are wholly oceanic, wintering at sea off West Africa and Chile. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north-westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

A total of seventeen birds were found during the year, all at coastal locations, with over half the records coming from Flamborough Head during the peak months of September and October. Two were at Flamborough on 23rd September, with one on 27th, and one seen there from the RSPB cruise on 28th. In October singles were at Spurn Point on 5th (IDW), and 6th (IDW *et al*), at Flamborough on 6th and 10th, Scarborough Harbour on 10th (RHA: RNH: PW: SW), Filey Brigg on 12th (JA: JS *et al*), Scarborough Marine Drive on 12th (JHe: SW), and one at South Gare on 23rd (JLS *et al*). Two were at Flamborough on 26th October with a single bird on 7th November.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

73,31,117,88,56

This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county, although increased observer awareness has led to an increase in records. Numbers fluctuate according to the Lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.

Fifty-six records were received, mostly in the months of August and September, with a third of the records at Flamborough. The only spring bird was a juvenile at Sammy's Point Easington on 31st May. Presumably, late birds or early autumn passage started on 27th June when a second-summer flew north at Flamborough and an adult flew over PHENR on 28th June.

In August, Flamborough had singles on 11th and 14th, three adults on 15th and six on 16th. An adult flew north on 25th, an adult and a juvenile on 26th, a first-summer on 27th, and an adult on 30th. An adult flew south at Long Nab Burniston on 17th, two north on 25th, one on 30th, and a juvenile south on 31st. Juveniles were seen at Filey Brigg on 25th and 26th, one at Scarborough Marine Drive on 26th, and Atwick on 29th.

Two adults flew north on 1st September at Flamborough, followed by one on 2nd, an adult and a juvenile on 9th, two juveniles on 13th, and one south on 21st. Juveniles were also recorded on 23rd, 24th, 26th, six on 27th, and one on 28th. Single birds were also seen at Spurn Point on 21st and 27th, Long Nab Burniston on 23rd, and Cromer Point Scarborough on 29th. Flamborough produced all the records in October, with single juveniles on 4th, 11th, three on 12th and one on 14th were the last of the year.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*
Vagrant from North America; 9 previous records (6 birds)

0,0,0,0,1

Breeds in eastern USA and the Caribbean, wintering to northern South America. The last acceptable record was in 1989. The number of birds seen previously may only amount to six, with three records in 1978 probably all referring to the same bird, and one returning to Hull in April and later November 1984.

On 17th July a bird found the previous day at Port Clarence was seen feeding on the River Tees at Middlesbrough (JG: JBD).

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*
Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

19,19,20,15,16

This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles. Numbers have been quite consistent in recent years.

Two adults flew north at Flamborough on 25th August (AMS: MG: PAL), with one north on 26th (BH: JMP: PAL). A single juvenile flew north on 1st September (PAL: IM), with two north on 6th (BR *et al*). A juvenile flew north at Spurn Point on 12th September later flying south (AAH), and possibly the same bird on 13th (RSw: BRS). A juvenile flew north at Spurn on 27th (GCT *et al*), and was seen the following day off the Bluebell. Filey Brigg produced

single juveniles on 23rd September (CA: JS), and 1st October (PCu), while one was seen off Skipsea on 26th September (WFC). Finally single juveniles flew south at Flamborough on 3rd October (PAL: JMP), one north on 4th (AMA), one north on 11th, and an adult south on 28th (PAL).

BONAPARTE'S GULL
Larus philadelphia

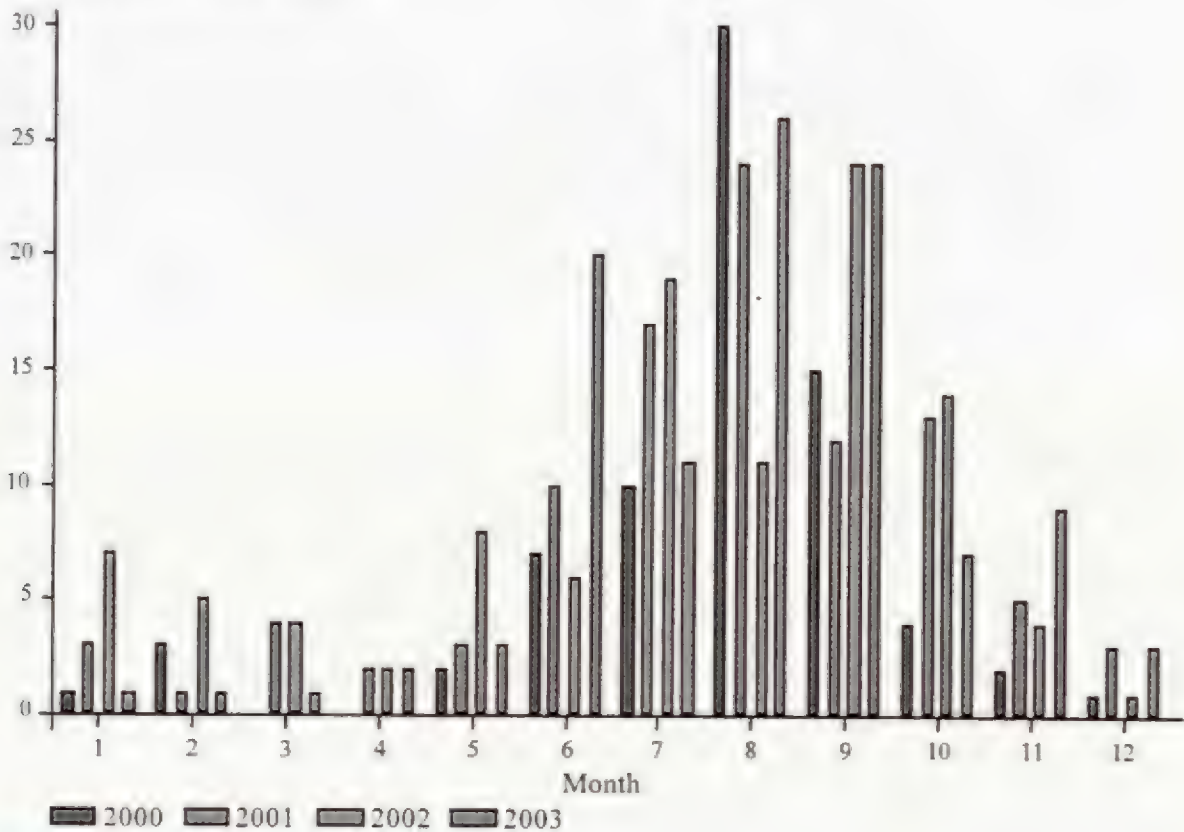
0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant: 4 previous records

Breeds widely across northern North America from west Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters on ice-free rivers and lakes in northern USA, and south along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean. The last record was in 1999.

A first-winter/first-summer was at Fairburn Ings from 18th April to 1st May, and again, from 9th-13th May (JJG *et al*). It spent much of its time feeding over Village Bay, Main Bay and the Cut. Amazingly its finder found another, the first for Norfolk a few weeks later. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:2 pp 53-56.

Yellow-legged Gull 2003



HERRING GULL
Larus argentatus

25,107,107,115,108

Yellow-legged Gull
Larus argentatus michahellis

Uncommon summer visitor and migrant

A similar number of records were received as in previous years, mostly between July and September. This year there were more sightings of birds in first-year plumage, probably indicating more observer confidence in identifying birds other than adults. All records relate to birds in adult plumage unless otherwise stated.

In VC61, the first record was not until 5th May when one was seen at Spurn and a first-year at Flamborough. In June, Spurn had one on 17th, with four including two first-years and a third-year on 18th. Six were frequently seen at Sammy's Point and BPNR on various dates from June to September. Single birds were seen at East Park Hull on 20th June, a third-summer at Hornsea Mere on 4th July, Atwick on 14th August, and a first-winter flew north at Flamborough on 14th September. A bird first seen on 5th July at Spurn Point stayed until 18th October, being joined by a second bird, on 7th and 25th September, and 4th October. Single birds were recorded at North Cave Wetlands on 24th September and at Spurn Point on 16th and 19th November. A second-winter at Tophill Low Res on 29th November was the last recorded for the year.

In VC63, one at Langsett Res on 1st January got the year off to a good start. At Blacktoft Sands RSPB, one was seen on 15th March, a third-summer on 16th April, with one at Southfield Res on 18th May. A second-summer was seen at Winterset Res on 22nd June. In July, singles were seen at Ringstone Edge Res on 5th, 20th, and 31st, with one at Broadstones Res on 24th. In August two were at Old Moor Wetlands on 2nd, with singles on 9th and 26th. Ringstone Edge Res had singles on 3rd, 29th and 31st with two seen from 5th to 26th. Other sightings included one at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 5th, one at Pugney's CP on 15th, and single birds at Blackmoorfoot Res on 29th and Langsett Res on 31st. Blackmoorfoot Res produced a good series of records in September with three different birds seen. One was seen most days from 1st to the end of the month, a first-winter on 5th and 12th, and a third-winter on 19th and 23rd. Other September records included a first year at Royd Moor Res on 3rd, five including three first year birds on 7th, and one on 10th. Sprotborough Flash had one on 12th, and two were at Ringstone Edge Res on 16th. A second-summer was at Wath Ings on 23rd. A first-winter was found in fields near Reedness at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 11th October, two were at Rother Valley CP on 12th, and one was at Old Moor Wetlands on 20th, with one at Edderthorpe Flash on 24th. Four including one first-winter bird were seen at Langsett Res on 1st November, the first-winter seen again on 9th. One roosted at Old Moor Wetlands on 15th, 18th, 19th and 20th, and again on 26th and 29th December. The year ended with a first-winter at Winterset Res on 31st December.

There were ten sightings in VC64 the first being one at Astley Lake New Swillington Ings on 5th February. Other sightings here included one from 20th to 21st April, two on 13th July, one on 19th July, and one on 7th August. Two including a first year bird were reported on six dates between 14th June and 4th August at Thornton Moor Res, and a single bird was at Cullingworth Res on 14th June, and on 17th at nearby Flappit Springs. One was seen at Malham Tarn on 25th September. Singles were seen at Gouthwaite Res on three dates in July, five dates in August and two dates in September.

In VC65 singles were observed at Ladybridge Lake on 13th February, 8th and 14th June, 6th to 23rd July, 8th and 14th August, 7th and 27th September and 15th November. Nearby singles were seen at Nosterfield NR on 14th and 18th June, 13th July, and 29th to 30th August.

Caspian Gull *Larus argentatus cachinnans*
Vagrant: 3 previous records

0,0,2,1,2

Caspian Gull breeds in the Caspian and Black Sea areas, but has recently expanded its breeding range to Poland. It is now regularly reported from south-east England, but in much smaller

numbers than *micahellis*. It has been reported with increasing frequency from rubbish tips in the Midlands, especially Northamptonshire and more recently Derbyshire. North of these areas it is decidedly rare.

A first-winter was found roosting at Astley Lake, New Swillington Ings on 16th March (MB: PB). It was seen subsequently on 22nd March, 4th and 5th April and 15th May, although no doubt it was present every night but because of the erratic nature of the gull roost it could not be located most evenings. On 25th October a second-winter was seen and photographed at Nosterfield NR and again from 21st December to the end of the year (RTP: SWo *et al*). Full details are available in the Harrogate Report pp 76-78.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

45,100,79,113,5

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland.

Only fifty reports were received this year, less than half the number of 2000 and 2002, with only six records from coastal locations. All records relate to birds in first- or second-winter plumage unless otherwise stated.

In VC61 the first bird of the year was an adult at Leven Bypass from 10th to 11th January, with two birds reported from Ellerton Ings during the month, followed by another adult on 15th February at Hornsea Mere. On 22nd an adult was off the South Cliffs at Flamborough, and an adult flew north at Spurn Point on 23rd. A single bird frequented the Brough Airfield and Welton Waters area on 13th March, and a bird seen at Filey Dams on 29th April, and on the top fields on 3rd May, was the year's latest record. The only records for the second half of the year was an adult seen at Spurn Point on 3rd and 5th November, and an adult on 29th November at Tophill Low NR.

In VC 62 and VC63 the year started with an adult at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 29th January, seen again on 24th February. Two birds were reported from Southfield Res in January and February, and one at Rother Valley CP. A single bird at Scaling Dam Res on 28th March was the last for the first half of the year. Blackmoorfoot Res had the monopoly of returning birds with an adult on 12th December, and three different birds on 29th, 30th and 31st.

The majority of the county's records again came from VC64 with good numbers from New Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings, although it would be no surprise if they related to the same birds moving between sites. At Astley Lake, New Swillington Ings, a single bird was seen regularly from 11th to 22nd February, 1st to 6th March and on various dates throughout March. A second bird was also seen regularly from 25th February to at least 30th March. An adult was also present from 1st to 4th March. In April at least four different birds occurred including the adult from 2nd until 24th with two birds and an adult seen together on 4th and 6th. Nearby at Fairburn Ings single birds were recorded on 24th February, 2nd March, with two birds including an adult on 12th April and another seen from 14th to 16th April. An adult seen at Bar Lane Quarry on 22nd and 25th January, and later on 24th February was thought to be the same bird seen at Farnham GP from 6th to 7th March. Eccup Res recorded a single bird on 9th April. The first returning bird was an adult at Dewsbury SF on 11th November followed by a single bird seen regularly at New Swillington Ings from 6th December to the end of the year. It was joined by a second from 28th to 29th December and an adult on 27th. An adult seen at Bar Lane

Quarry on 31st December was perhaps the bird seen four days earlier at New Swillington Ings.

In VC65 an adult was seen firstly at Ladybridge Lake on 6th February moving to Nosterfield NR from 7th to 8th and again there on 5th, 8th and 15th March. In the later part of the year Nosterfield NR completed a remarkable set of gull records when an adult Kumlien's Gull *L. g. kumlieni* was found on 21st December. Full details are available in the Harrogate report p78.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

74,113,86,90,44

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and has in the past been more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, particularly on the coast, but recently this has not been the case.

As with the previous species, the number of reports received was less than half the usual number expected, totalling only 44. However, whereas most of the reports of Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* came from inland sites, the majority of sightings for this species were at coastal locations. All records relate to birds in first- or second-winter plumages unless otherwise stated.

On the coast the first of the year was one at Filey Brigg on 8th January, with another frequenting the area from 17th to 30th January. Hornsea Mere hosted a bird on regular dates from 10th to the end of the month, with a single at Burton Riggs NR on 23rd. In February the Hornsea Mere bird continued to be seen regularly throughout the month until 3rd March, last being recorded on the 18th of that month. An adult flew south at Flamborough on 5th, one was off the South Cliffs there on 22nd, and one flew south on 23rd. One was present at Scalby Mills on 10th. Filey recorded the last two sightings of the first half of the year with one on 3rd April, and one off the Brigg on 22nd.

The first returning bird of the autumn was an early individual at Spurn Point on 7th October. One flew south at Flamborough on the 25th October, followed by an adult that flew south on 5th December. An adult was seen at Hornsea Mere on 13th and 19th December, one flew south at Flamborough on 20th, with one at Cromer Point Scarborough on 30th December the last of the year.

Inland the year got off to a good start with one at Farnham GP on 1st January. At Bar Lane Quarry an adult first seen on 11th January was seen again on various dates until 1st February. Blackley Tip hosted an adult on 17th, with single birds at Leven Tip on 18th and Wintersett Res on 22nd. In February singles were recorded at Astley Lake New Swillington Ings on 7th and 12th, with a different bird present on 22nd. One was at Old Moor RSPB on 10th and 11th. The Hornsea bird was seen at Brandesburton on 16th, one was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 23rd to 24th, joined by an adult on the latter date. One roosted at Old Moor regularly between 5th and 16th with a different bird on 18th. On 13th March one was seen at Melton Foreshore moving onto Brough Airfield and Welton Waters. A late third-winter that roosted daily from 4th to 6th May at New Swillington Ings was the last record for the early part of the year.

The first returning bird of the second half of the year wasn't recorded until 16th December when an adult was seen at Nosterfield NR staying until 26th. A second smaller adult was seen on 31st. An adult at New Swillington Ings on 28th stayed until the following day, and a third-winter was seen at Leven Bypass on 29th.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

66,111,40,36,81

Scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn

A wide spread species that breeds in the Americas, North West Europe, Southern Africa through the Indian Ocean to Australasia. The increasing population that breeds in Northumberland winters off North West Africa.

A very good year with an exceptional flock of twenty birds located at Spurn, one of the largest flocks ever seen in the county, reflecting the continued breeding success off the Northumberland coast. The only spring record was of three birds flying north at South Gare on 1st May, the earliest ever record for Cleveland. An adult was also seen there on 22nd June, but no breeding occurred there this year. In July one was seen at Scalby Mills on 3rd, two at Filey Brigg on 6th, with singles at Flamborough on 13th, 17th, and 19th. An adult and a juvenile were seen at South Gare on 17th, two adults and a juvenile at BPNR on 26th, and an adult and a juvenile at Spurn Point on 27th.

In August one to two were seen at Flamborough between 4th to 8th, with two to three seen from 20th to 22nd. An adult and a juvenile were found at Filey Brigg on 24th, and an adult at Scalby Mills on 25th flew north after resting on the rocks. Spurn Point produced a remarkable series of records from 3rd September when the first bird was recorded. Birds were present until the 24th in various numbers, with parties of 11 on 11th, 10 on 19th, 20 on 20th, and 13 on 21st the largest. Two adults and a juvenile were found roosting on Filey Brigg on 17th, one adult and the juvenile still present the next day, with the juvenile remaining until the 19th. Five juveniles flew north at Flamborough on 4th October, one north on 10th, and an adult at Filey Brigg on 11th was the last record of the year.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

0,1,0,0,1

Vagrant; 8 previous records

Breeds in scattered locations through southern and Eastern Europe, much more numerous in the eastern part of its range. Winters in tropical West and Central Africa and from the Nile delta to

East Africa. Other populations occur in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa and Australia. At Tophill Low NR and adult was found on 14th June at 07.15. It stayed until 08.55, and was presumably the same bird that was seen later in Nottinghamshire (DGF: MGH).

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

6.3.2.2(1).1

Rare migrant; 56 previous records (52 birds)

A visitor to the county for the fifth year in succession, this species is no longer a national rarity. Its breeding range extends from Poland eastwards to China, with western populations wintering in Africa, and a spring arrival after south-easterly winds is not unexpected.

On 31st July an adult was present from 06.35 until 07.25 when it flew north at PHENR (DGH).

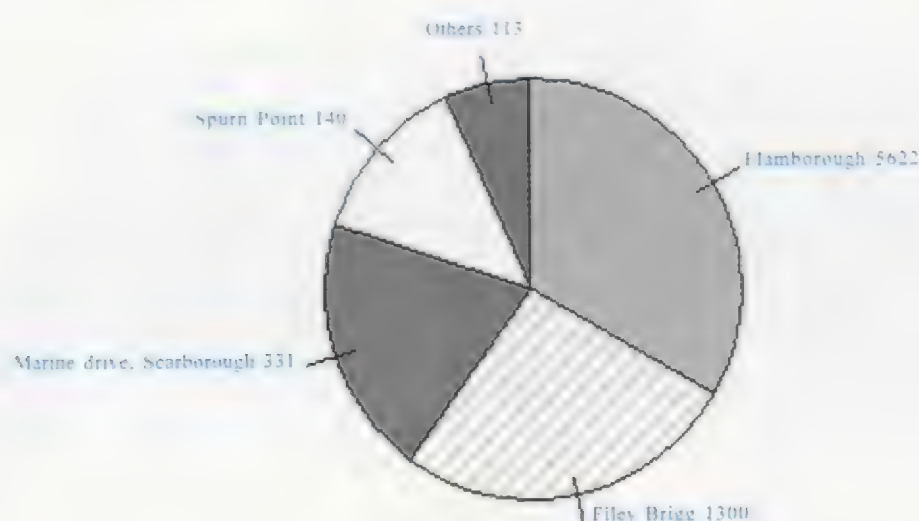
BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*
Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

3,4,4,0,3

This circumpolar species breeds in northern Scotland where it is mostly sedentary, with only limited dispersal from its breeding colonies. It is a rare bird in the county.

The first of only three records this year, and the only one in spring, was seen off the Marine Drive, Scarborough, on 12th March (RHA: IA). One was seen off Spurn Point on 7th October (KH), with the last again off the Marine Drive, Scarborough, on 21st October (RHA: PW).

Little Auk 31st January 2003



LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

825,18,13725,282,12545

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, in greatly varying numbers

This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea.

There were two early January records, with one caught on the beach and ringed at Spurn on 3rd, and one past Filey Brigg on 5th. Strong northerly winds at the end of the month displaced huge numbers. One at Filey on 30th and 11 north at Spurn were merely the forerunners. On 31st, at least 10,000 birds flew north past coastal watch-points, with numbers as follows: South Gare 17; Scarborough Marine Drive 551; Filey Brigg 1300; Flamborough Head 9822; Aldbrough 33; Grimston 114; Spurn Point 140. In addition, three birds were in South Bay, Scarborough and two were in Bridlington Bay at Barmston. An exhausted bird was picked up in Scarborough and handed to the RSPCA and two birds were picked up dead at Spurn. The next day, February 1st, most of the remaining birds moved north, with 41 recorded at Flamborough Head, two at South Gare and a single past Filey Brigg. Two flew south at Scarborough on 4th; 27 flew north at Flamborough on 5th when eight were in Filey Bay; two passed Flamborough on 6th and one on 7th.



Great Bittern

Potteric Carr, January 2003

J. Harriman



Temminck's Stint

Pulfin Bog, near Beverley, May 2003

J. Harriman



Little Egrets

Blacktoft Sands, May 2003

J. Harriman



Ring-necked Duck

East Park, Hull, March 2003

J. Harriman



Lesser Scaup

Homsea Mere, January 2003

G. C. Taylor



Great-spotted Cuckoo

Spurn Point, July 2003

G. C. Taylor



Hume's Leaf Warbler

Spurn Point, October 2003

G. C. Taylor



Taiga Flycatcher

Flamborough Head, April 2003

P. A. Lassey



Taiga Flycatcher

Flamborough Head, April 2003

P. A. Lassey



Western Bonelli's Warbler

Kilnsea, September 2003

G. C. Taylor



Bonaparte's Gull

Fairburn, Ings, April 2003

D. P. A. Ward



Common Rosefinch

Scarborough, June 2003

D. P. A. Ward



Hume's Leaf Warbler

Flamborough Head, November 2003

D. P. A. Ward



Marbled Teal

Rodley, NR, July 2003

M. C. Richardson



Yellow-browed Warbler

Kilnsea, October 2003

G. C. Taylor



Yellow-browed Warbler

Spurn Point, October 2003

G. C. Taylor

The next spring record was on 30th March, when one was recorded at Flamborough. A bird in breeding plumage was picked up on the road at Spurn on 5th April, ringed and released, while a bird was found dead at Primrose Valley on 15th May. How long it had been there is uncertain.

There was no major displacement in autumn, with only one day with 3-figure numbers. One flew south at Long Nab, Burniston on 23rd September, to be shortly followed by 147 north at Flamborough Head on 26th. 90 flew north there the following day, when six passed Spurn, two at Atwick and one Ulrome. On 28th, 35 flew north at Flamborough Head, 18 at Spurn and 2 at Atwick, with 5 north at Spurn on 29th. Spurn recorded a few in October, with two on 1st, two on 4th, four on 5th, one on 27th and one on 31st. Filey recorded just four in October, while Flamborough managed 66 on 12 dates. Two flew south at Scarborough on 8th and one north at Flamborough on 17th. In November a single was at Spurn on 1st and two were there on 2nd. Filey recorded 41 bird days, including 35 south on 9th. Flamborough Head recorded ten on 6 dates. Five passed Flamborough on 6th December, on which date one was found in Filey Bay, although unfortunately picked up dead on 7th. Seven passed Flamborough on 23rd, and records for the year closed when two were off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 29th.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius*

0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 1 previous record in 1982

Common summer migrant to Spain, rare and local breeder in Portugal, southern France and east to Greece. Palearctic breeders winter in sub-Saharan Africa.

At Spurn Point, a juvenile was found at the Point on 19th July, remaining until 31st. It was trapped and ringed on 27th (PC *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:3 pp 91-92.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

2,0,1,3,1

Rare migrant from Europe; 63 previous records

Breeds discontinuously from North-west Africa east to North Pakistan, and can turn up from very early in spring through summer to late autumn.

One was found on 26th April at Otley (BB). It was seen flying over Weston Park with Common Swifts *Apus apus* at 0845 for 15 minutes, and constitutes Bradford's first record.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

11,0,3,16,2

Scarce vagrant from southern Europe; 84 previous records (130 birds)

This Mediterranean species breeds throughout southern Europe, and is now a regular over-shooting spring visitor.

One flew south over Wire Dump at Spurn Point on 9th June (AAH: MFS), with another south at The Narrows there on 18th June (MFS).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

2,2,2,2,7

Rare visitor from Europe, annual in recent years; 242 previous records

This species is widely distributed across central Eurasia, the Indian sub-continent, parts of South-east Asia and North Africa.

An exceptional seven records were received this year, probably involving five birds, although one very mobile bird could possibly have accounted for most. The first was seen and photographed at Flower Hill Farm, North Newbald on 30th April (FB *et al*). On 3rd May, one was found in Beverley on the Broadgates housing estate, and presumed to be the same bird. On 26th July one was seen in Cayton Bay (AO), with one found at Spurn Point on 5th August (TMc *et al*). A longer-staying bird was found in Filey CP on 30th September, moving to Carr Naze and then later re-found in the Top Fields where it remained from 5th to 7th October (J & TGD). Further inland, one was seen at Castle Howard on 2nd October, later seen at Terrington where it was photographed on 4th.

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

11,17,8,30,7

Scarce coastal passage migrant; rare inland

This species breeds across Eurasia, from Britain, where it has been extinct since 1993, to Japan. The European population mostly winters south of the Sahara, and migrating Scandinavian birds are regularly reported from the county.

The upsurge in spring records witnessed over the last thirty years seems to be ebbing, with only two spring records. A single discovered at the Chalk Bank, Spurn on 20th April was the first (LJD *et al*). The only other spring sighting was at the opposite end of the county at Boulby Cliffs on 3rd May (RCT: JR: TF).

The lack of favourable conditions in September made for a poor autumn. Only five singles: following a spell of light northerly winds, the first appeared at Grimston on 24th August preceding one at Crook Ness on 26th August (JHe *et al*). The same conditions brought one to the Canal Hedge, Spurn from 28th August to 1st September (AAH *et al*). The next appeared in the Bay Brambles, Flamborough on 2nd September (IM). Finally, the last of a poor year, lingered at Bempton on 10th and 11th September.

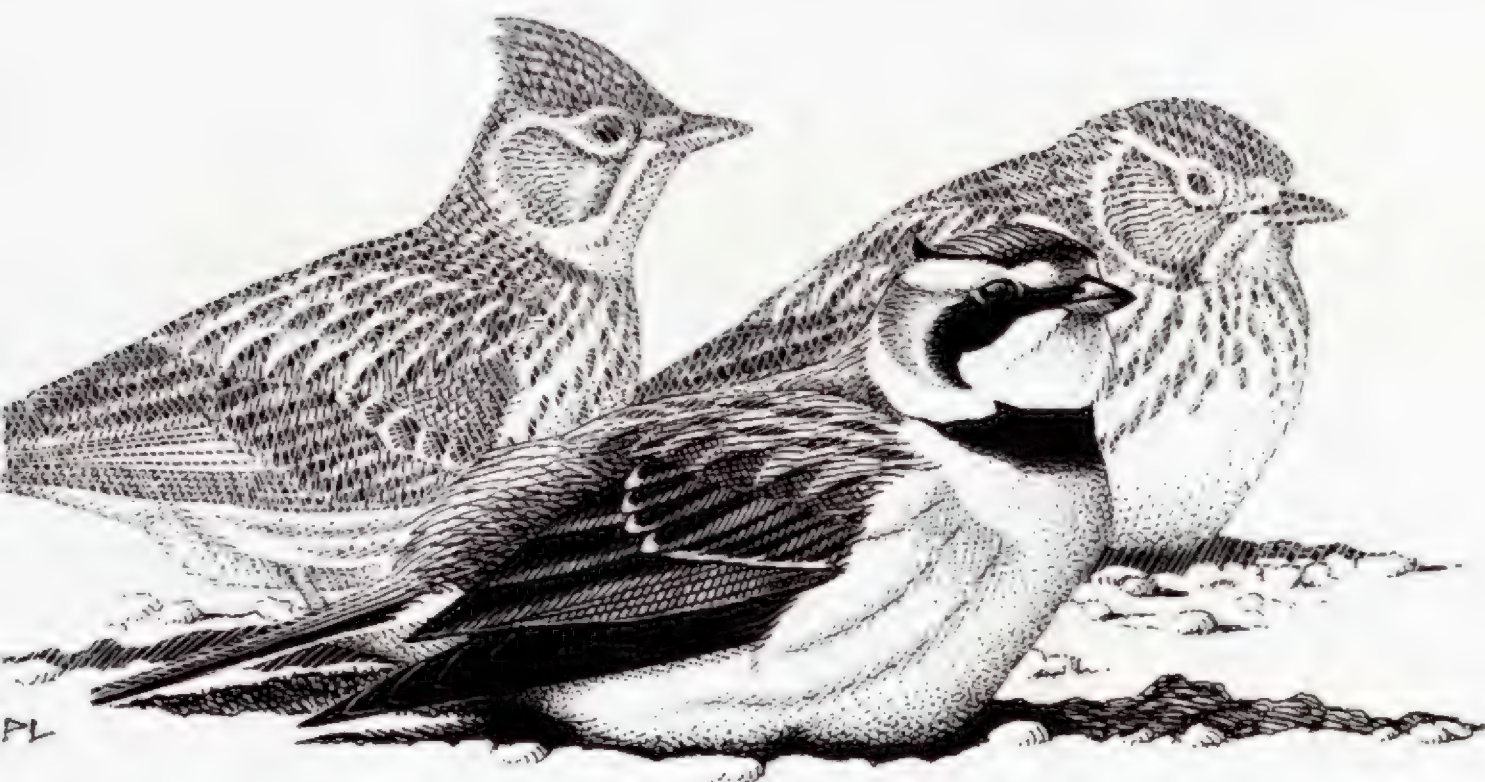
GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

1,2,4,2,1

Rare coastal passage migrant; 40 previous records

This species breeds from North-west Africa through Mediterranean Europe to eastern Asia, with western forms wintering south of the Sahara.

The year's only record was unusually in mid-winter, when a single fed in coastal fields at Cowbar, Staithes from 4th to 12th January (RCT: JR *et al*). It closely mirrored one of the eastern race trapped at Spurn on 12th January 1992.



HORNED (SHORE) LARK *Eremophila alpestris*
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

94,15,11,28,88

The world range of this species is extensive, with 25 races covering much of North America, the Colombian Andes and North Africa, as well as northern Europe east to northern China. The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.

Cowbar, Staithes attracted its usual wintering flock, which peaked at 20, the last individual recorded on 10th April. Three were on the cliff top fields at Filey on the 6th and 7th January, in addition to singles at Flamborough on 7th February and at Atwick on 10th March. An inland migrant was a welcome find at Watton NR on 9th and 10th April (KJA *et al*) and a second spring migrant was one at BPNR on 29th April.

The first of a good autumn showing was a single discovered in set aside at Filey on 19th October, with other October singles at Hawsker and Bempton. Spurn recorded four singles: at Middle Camp on 6th November, one south on 9th November, one over the Triangle on 22nd November and finally one around the Warren on 5th December. A well appreciated flock peaked at 15 on cliff top fields at Flamborough between 9th and 23rd November. A very creditable find were three discovered well inland at Soil Hill, Raggalds in West Yorkshire on 10th and 11th November (KM *et al*). On 27th November six were present for one day only at Cromer Point near Scarborough. The region's third inland record of the year fed in stubble fields with Skylarks at Blacktoft Sands on 12th December. The year closed with a flock of 11 wintering in the traditional area near Port Mulgrave.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

4,1,7,3,2

Rare passage migrant; 44 previous records (46 birds)

Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.

Two singles contributed to a national influx in the latter half of April. The first, identified from a car at the Riverside, Kilnsea on 23rd April, was then tracked southwards to the Point (AAH *et al*). Flamborough hosted the second on 27th April (AJB: GJE *et al*).

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

13,12,24,12,12

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland

The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September on route to uncertain wintering grounds.

One lingered at Birley Edge, near Sheffield and was appreciated by birders and photographers alike between 14th January and 18th March. The next was the county's earliest autumn record, with a single at the Point, Spurn on 6th September (JSn: RJS: RS) followed by one at Scarborough Castle on 10th (JM: DP).

Eight singles were noted in October; with one at Whitestone Point on 1st (RSS) and one at Flamborough on 2nd October followed light northerlies (PAL). Strengthening easterlies from mid-month were responsible for a single at Spurn on the 9th (AS), one flushed from the Tip, Filey on 13th (J & TGD) and another at Sammy's Point, Easington next day. One flew south at BPNR on the 18th October (GP), with one in the sheep field at Spurn on the same day (AJG). With a continuing north-easterly air-flow, the last record for October was at South Landing, Flamborough on 22nd October (PAL). The year's last was relatively late with a single in Clubley's Field, Spurn on 30th November (RB).

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

0,3,0,0,1

Rare coastal passage migrant; 26 previous records

Breeds through the Mediterranean region from Iberia east to South Asia and winters in the Sahel.

Light southerlies induced an overshoot, with one in the Walker Butts area of Spurn on 3rd to 4th May (DJS *et al*). Typical in both date and location, this remains a very rare bird away from Spurn.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*

0,0,0,0,2

Rare coastal passage migrant; 17 previous records

European range restricted to North Urals. Widespread from Central Siberia east to Japan. Winters in southern China and in SE Asia. Population in the Himalayas and mountains of west-central China winters throughout Indian subcontinent.

The relative frequency of records in the early-nineties seems a long time ago, so two county records in a year represents something of a return to form. The first was discovered in the Glenn Gardens, Filey on the 19th October during classic north-easterlies (JH *et al*). The Point Dunes, Spurn hosted the second, with one leading would-be observers a merry dance on the 9th and 10th November (JW *et al*).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

25,25,16,16,23

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe

This species breeds in the mountains of southern Europe, dispersing northwards to winter.

Wintering singles remained at Marley Sewage Works from the beginning of the year until 23rd March and at New Swillington Ings from 26th January until 2nd April. A maximum of three were found at Blacktoft Sands RSPB through to the last sighting on 16th April. One seen at Fairburn Ings on 5th February was seen again on 24th February and 29th March. One day birds were discovered at Coatham Marsh on 9th January and one was at Cromer Point near Scarborough on 13th January. Only two spring migrants were recorded; one in summer plumage at Winterset from 31st March through to 5th April and a two-day singleton at Nosterfield NR from 12th April.

Blacktoft hosted the first to return on 20th October and by the end of the month four were present. These remained until the turn of the year, although as many as six may have been present in the middle of November. Away from the Humber, singles were at the Old Moor Wetlands from 30th October to 11th November, Rother Valley CP on the 9th November, at Barmston on the 10th and on Coatham Marsh on 13th and 25th November. In addition, at least three wintered at Fairburn Ings with Dewsbury Sewage Works attracting two from 13th November to 17th December. Singles at Marley Sewage Works from 8th December and one at Lower Gorple Reservoir from 30th December remained to the year end.

Water Pipit Distribution 2003



YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*
Rare migrant

1,2,1,5,2

Breeds in central and northern Scandinavia west to northern Siberia.

Surprisingly the year's only spring record was seen and photographed at Scalby Lodge Pond on 18th May (DBy). Inland, one was discovered feeding in fields at Blacktoft on 25th September (SDW *et al*).

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*
Vagrant; 2 previous records

0,0,0,1,1

The nominate race breeds from North Russia east to Siberia, but the central Asia race *M. c. nerae* has expanded westwards in the 20th century and now breeds regularly in the Baltic countries. Winters from Indian subcontinent east to SE Asia.

A first-winter was discovered feeding around a small pond on Filey Golf Course on 21st September (JH: FXM: AN *et al*). With access arranged it showed well until dusk, but unfortunately there was no sign of the bird next day. Only the county's third, surprisingly this was also Filey's second. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:3 pp 97-98.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant

2,4,2,4*,0*

The declining UK population of this trans-Saharan migrant occurs south of a line drawn from the Humber to the Severn, with Yorkshire at the northern end of its range. Some migrants from the continent, where it is more numerous, can occur.

The only records came from the regular breeding site on Thorne Moors. Singing males were first recorded from 24th April and peaked at nine territorial males. However, virtually all fell silent soon after arrival and the last recorded was on 5th June.

* Running totals refer only to migrants

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

2,4,8,3,1

Scarce coastal passage migrant; occasional very rare breeding species

The species breeds across the Palearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red-spotted race *svecica* breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white-spotted forms *cyaneola* and *namnetum* breed from Spain to the Baltic states and this form has bred in the county. White-spotted Bluethroats return earlier to the breeding grounds in spring.

Lack of suitable weather conditions in the key migration period, ensured another disappointing year for this charismatic migrant. The only record being a female trapped at Spurn on 11th June (PC).

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*
Rare visitor; 11 previous records

1,0,0,1,1

Breeds in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration is likely to occur, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.

Tophill Low NR hosted the year's sole sighting, with one discovered there on 25th November (PA).

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
Vagrant; 6 previous records

0,0,0,1,1

Breeds from southern Finland east through European Russia and Siberia as far east as Lake Baikal, and south through central Asia to N Pakistan, wintering in the Indian subcontinent and SE Asia. Mostly occurs in autumn, but one of the few spring records was at Spurn in 1984.

Another record in the county, this time a rare spring record of a singing male at Spurn Point from 8th to 9th June, which was also trapped (PC: BRS).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*
Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeding species

14,1,6,3,1

This trans-Saharan migrant is widespread through the Western Palearctic, but its small breeding population in southern England is declining.

The worst showing for quite some years, with one trapped at Kew Villa, Spurn on 19th September; the 3rd autumn record for the site (PC: BRS).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*
Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn

9,5,4,25,7

This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. First-winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid-September. Nationally one in seven records is in spring.

A poor showing, with four spring records from Flamborough Head and three autumn sightings. In spring at Flamborough Head, a singing bird was at Old Fall on 26th May (AMA: IM *et al*) and another singing male the same day also in Old Fall which was present at Chalet Hedge the following day (AMA *et al*). Further singles were in Old Fall on 29th May (NP) and 31st May (AMA).

The first of the autumn was at the Point, Spurn on 6th September, followed by another there on 26th September. One was at North Landing, Flamborough Head on 10th September (JMP).

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*
Vagrant; 7 previous records

0,1,0,0,1

Breeds from North-west Africa to Belgium and West Germany, wintering in Africa.

One at South Gare on 31st May was originally identified as an Icterine Warbler *Hippolais*

icterina. Fortunately it was well-photographed and sketched, which allowed the true identity to come to light (MR: WIB *et al*).

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*

0,3,3,1,1

Rare migrant, annual in recent years; 33 previous records

Breeds through the Mediterranean from NW Africa to western Turkey and Israel, and winters in North Africa. There are four races, two of which have been recorded in the UK. 12 of the previous 32 records have been in autumn.

A first-winter female was at Easington between 16th and 19th October, during which time it was photographed by a number of observers (AAH *et al*).

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

7,3,29,24,12

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

The breeding range of this species extends through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, with the entire population wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280 occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.

A relatively poor showing after the last two years, with just 12 records. The first of the autumn was at Spurn Point on 31st August (PM). September saw the majority of records: one was in the Bay Brambles, Flamborough Head on 11th (PAL), then singles were at Sammy's Point, Easington on 14th; another was at Spurn Point on 15th (CMc); one was on Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 27th; one was in Easington on 28th and other singles were at Filey, Holmpton and in Old Fall, Flamborough Head on the same date (IM: NP *et al*). The Filey bird remained in Arndale until the 6th October (JMT *et al*). A single was at Spurn Point on 30th September (AAH). In October, one was at Spurn Point on 1st (JD *et al*), then one was at Filey CP in Arndale on 6th October. A late bird was in Old Fall, Flamborough Head on 9th November and was trapped the following day (AMA: PAL: JMP: ICS).

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

0,2,0,4,2

Vagrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 43 previous records

The European and W Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to W Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent.

Filey can lay claim to be the location for this popular "*phyllosc*" in Yorkshire and two occurred there to increase the site tally. The first was on Carr Naze from 12th-13th August (JHo: FXM *et al*) and the second was heard calling in the Top Scrub and then Arndale on 4th September and remained until the 7th when it was present in Church Ravine (PJD *et al*).

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*
Rare autumn coastal migrant; 13 previous records

0,2,0,0,1

Breeds from northern Norway east to Alaska, undertaking a long migration that usually commences in August, to winter in south-east Asia including Indonesia and the Philippines.

One was at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 25th August and was trapped at Kew Villa the following day, remaining in the area until 31st August (TMc *et al*).

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 231 previous records

17,14,2,8,74

Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in SE Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.

A record influx during October occurred throughout eastern Britain, and Yorkshire shared in the bounty with a minimum of 74 records. The first to arrive were on 13th October with singles at Filey CP (PJD: AHo: GVW *et al*), (remaining to 15th) Spurn (also to 15th), South Gare (JB *et al*), and Flamborough Head. This bird was the first of at least 21 birds on the Outer Head during the autumn. On the 14th another was at Filey CP, staying to 16th (PJD *et al*), one at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough remaining to 16th (MF), another was at Spurn to 18th and six were at Flamborough Head, with three in Flatmere (one to 19th), one in Old Fall (to 18th), one at South Landing and one at Sykes Plantation, with another at Ness Point, Robin Hood's Bay (RSS).

On the 15th another was at Filey CP (to 19th), two were at Spurn, one at Chalk Bank and another at the Point (to 18th), one was at Brotton GC (CD: SJH), and two at Boulby Cliffs (RCT *et al*). On the 16th there were singles in Parish Wood, Filey, remaining to 17th (SC *et al*) and South Gare that remained to 17th (CD *et al*). On the 17th, two were at Scarborough Castle, (one to 18th) (RHA: SW *et al*), four were at Flamborough Head, one at Easington, one trapped at South Gare (to 19th) (SCB: DWS: DAM *et al*), one at Skipsea (RL), two at Ness Point, Robin Hood's Bay (JAB *et al*), and one at Whitestone Point (JAB *et al*). On 18th, one was at Ulrome (MGH *et al*), one at Atwick (WFC), six at Flamborough Head, one at Kilnsea (SM *et al*), and a different bird at Ness Point, Robin Hood's Bay (JAB). On the 19th one was at Grimston (AFJ *et al*) and three were at Flamborough Head, including a new bird at Head Farm, and two were there on 20th October, including a new bird at South Landing and two on 21st including a new bird at North Landing. Also on 21st another was at South Gare (DAM: TF: CD *et al*).

On 23rd one was at East Newton remaining to 26th (AFJ *et al*), two were at Aldbrough (one staying to 24th, and presumably the same bird also on 26th) (AFJ), one was at Spurn (DH), one in South Landing (to 24th) was possibly the same bird as 20th, but another was trapped at North Dykes. On 24th one was at Kilnsea and one at Hawsker Bottoms (JAB: BB), another was at the Point at Spurn on 25th and 26th (GF), with one in South Dykes, Flamborough Head on 25th. Three were at North Dykes, Flamborough Head on 26th, another in South Landing from 27th to 29th was possibly the bird from 24th, and one was at Scarborough Castle from 28th to 29th (DBy: NWA). A different bird was at the Point, Spurn from 28th to 30th, a second bird was at South Landing, Flamborough on 29th and one was at Spurn from 31st October to 2nd November, during which time it was trapped.

There was then a lull in proceedings, before the next with three at Kilnsea on 7th (one to 8th) (AAH *et al*), with one at the Point, Spurn the same day. One was at Holmpton on 8th and 9th (GJS), one at Spurn in the Crown & Anchor car park from 8th to 11th, a second at Holmpton on 9th (GJS *et al*), two at Flamborough Head on 9th and the last of a memorable influx were two more at Spurn on 10th joining the bird from the 8th (DH).

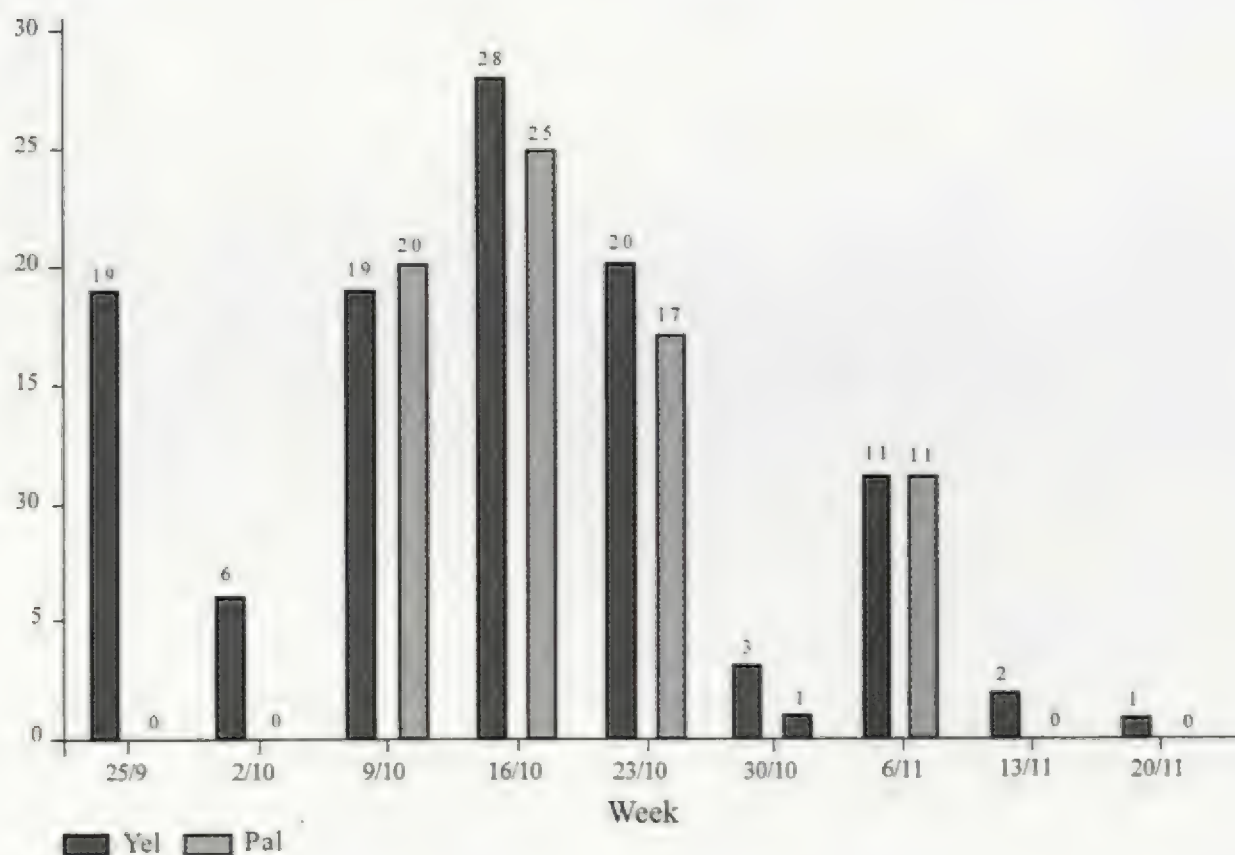
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus colaptes*
Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland

31,40,31,28,114

This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to SE Asia. It mostly occurs from mid September to early November, and since the mid-1980's numbers have significantly increased.

As with the previous species, it was an excellent autumn. The first were seen on 27th September, with singles at Filey, Easington (remaining to 28th), Spurn (to 1st October) and what was surprisingly the only inland record of the autumn, in Crookes, Sheffield. Three were at Sammy's Point, Easington on 28th September, with two more in the Easington area that day, with another there from 18th to 19th October, one on 29th October, and one at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 7th November.

Pallas's/Yellow-browed Leaf Warblers 2003



At Spurn there were two new birds on 1st October; singles on 2nd, 6th and 13th; one from 14th to 23rd; one from 17th to 18th; another on 17th; two in the Crown and Anchor car park on 25th and 26th, also seen there on 28th, with one to 29th; other singles at Spurn on 28th and 29th October and on 7th November and finally one on 9th, the last for the site.

At Filey, following the first, there were 18 between 1st October and November, with five on 16th October.

At Flamborough Head, three were present from 28th to 29th September, then two on 2nd October, one on 14th, three on 15th, one on 16th, one on 18th, one from 19th to 21st, one from 21st to 22nd, one on 24th and again 27th and 29th, another on 25th, two from 28th to 1st, then in November one from 6th to 9th, a second from 8th to 9th, and two more on 8th, one remaining to 10th.

In the Whitby area, singles were at Ness Point on 1st, Hawsker Bottoms on 2nd, Whitestone Point from 13th to 17th, Ness Point on 17th and Sandsend on 18th. Three were found at Hawsker Bottoms on 19th, with one there on 24th, one at Sandsend from 25th to 1st November and another there on 15th November.

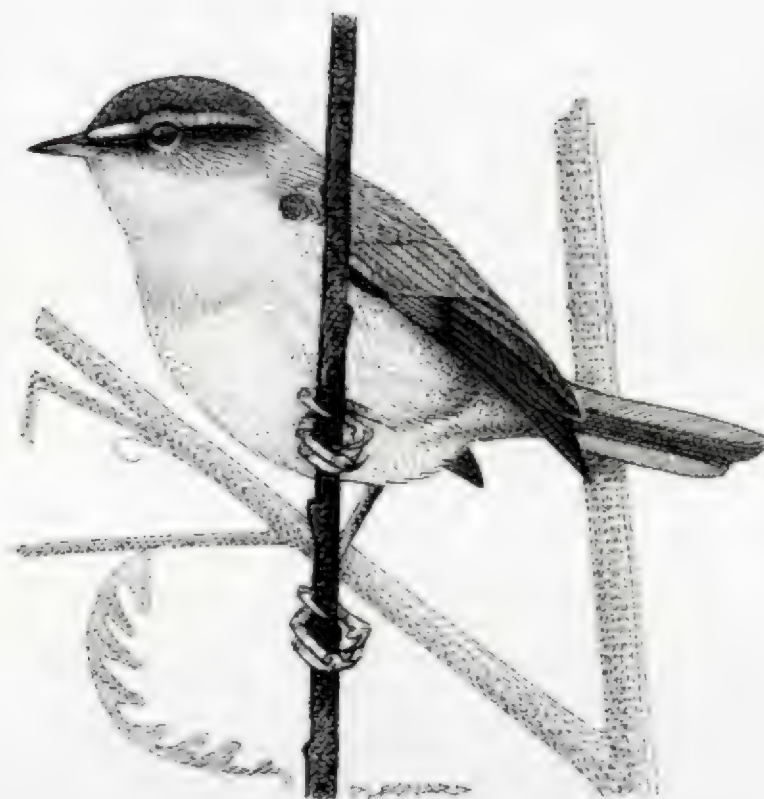
Elsewhere, there was one at Atwick on 1st October, one at Hunt Cliff on 2nd, one at Skinningrove on 13th, three more there on 14th, with singles at Boulby and Hummersea the same day. One was at Boulby on 15th, two at Saltburn on 16th with one at Boulby the same day, one at Scarborough Castle on 17th, two at Skipsea on 17th, with singles on 18th and 19th. One was at Holmpton on 18th, one at Jackson's Bay the same day, two at Skinningrove on 20th, one at Redcar on 21st, one at Brotton GC on 21st, one at Saltburn on 23rd, singles at East Newton from 24th to 29th, then 26th and another 4th to 6th November and one at Aldbrough from 24th to 29th. One was at Brotton GC on 25th; a new bird was at Aldbrough on 26th with probably a different bird there on 4th and 6th November. One was at Scarborough Castle on 9th November, with one at Holmpton the same day and the last of the year was at Scarborough Castle on 22nd and 23rd November.

HUME'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei* **Vagrant; 9 previous records**

0,3,0,0,7

Breeds from the Sayan and Altai mountains south to the north-west Himalayas, arriving as a coastal migrant later than the preceding species, having traveled further. The record national influx was reflected in Yorkshire, though three Flamborough records remain to be submitted.

The first was at Skinningrove on 15th October (CD: SJH: ECP *et al*). This was followed by one at Hawsker Bottoms from 19th to 20th (JAB: RSS *et al*). Another was in Old Fall from 23rd to 24th (JMB: PAL: GT *et al*), then one at Kilnsea from 25th October to 1st November, which was trapped on 26th and identified as a Yellow-browed Warbler, but was re-identified as a Hume's when it was re-trapped on 29th October (PC: LJD *et al*). Another found at West Farm, Easington on 8th November was trapped on 11th (TRC: MC: BRS *et al*). One was at Holmpton on 9th November (GJS *et al*), and another was identified at Flamborough Head on 10th November, remaining to 15th and photographed (DPAW *et al*).



RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi*
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 33 previous records

1.9,2,0,2

This south Siberian species winters in SE Asia.

There were two records. One was on Canal Bank, Spurn Point on 1st October (JD: NHu: PTh *et al*) and was followed by the second, a typically elusive bird at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 12th October (MC: GED: DPr *et al*).

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
Rare coastal migrant in autumn; 27 previous records

1,1,3,0,3

This species breeds in through Siberia to north-east China wintering from Nepal to south China. It is usually a late autumn visitor.

One was at Filey CP from 13th-14th October (J & TGD *et al*), and another there from 29th to 30th October was present in Arndale (JHo *et al*). Further north, one was at Brotton GC from 28th to 30th October (MAB *et al*).

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Vagrant; 4 previous records

1,0,0,0,1

Breeds from Iberia to north France, south Germany, Italy, Austria, and locally in mountains of North Africa. Winters along southern edge of the Sahara, from Senegal to N Cameroon.

A popular bird was at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 30th September. Its identification was confirmed as it was heard to call and was photographed (GCT *et al*).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*
Rare coastal migrant and occasional winterer

0.0.2.1.1

The race *tristis* breeds through Siberia, and is much less common but more perhaps more distinctive than the race *abietinus* which replaces the nominate race in Scandinavia, and is a regular migrant through the county.

One in Sycharham Wood, Cloughton was heard to call frequently on 30th October (NWA).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995 and 2001

45+,39,27,160,82

This species breeds mostly in southern England, with a more extensive distribution in Europe, the more northerly populations migrating south-westwards to winter around the Mediterranean. Birds of continental origin provide a double passage on the coast. A poor spring this year was followed by a good autumn, which, although not matching the previous year's record numbers, provided a visual treat for most visiting birders to the east coast.

Early in the year there were several inland records, including the bird at New Earswick from 2002 which remained until 1st February. One was at Rother Valley CP from 1st to 23rd January and one at Addingham on 9th February.

The first coastal migrant was at Scalby Lodge on 25th March, then singles at Flamborough Head on 7th and 15th April. The last of a poor spring was one at Dowley Gap SW from 20th-23rd April.

The first of the autumn was at Spurn Point on 13th October. At this site there were 90 bird-days between this date and 9th November, with two to five on most days, but six on 16th and 18th and 13 on 17th. There were 11 at Filey between 15th October and 16th November, with the maximum day count four on 9th November. At Flamborough Head two were at Old Fall from 14th to 15th October, and two at Flatmere on 14th with one on 15th. Two different birds on 15th, one at Danes Dyke on 17th, two more in Old Fall from 17th to 19th with one to 20th, one on the Outer Head on 18th, one in Flatmere from 19th to 21st, with a second bird on 21st. Another was on the Outer Head on 23rd, with singles in South Dykes on 25th and South Landing from 27th to 28th, in Old Fall from 8th to 9th with a second bird on 9th and one in Sykes Plantation on 11th.

Elsewhere, singles were at Kilnsea from 14th to 15th October, South Gare on 14th, Kilnsea on 17th, Skipsea on 17th and 19th, with two at Atwick on 18th, one remaining to 19th, three at Holmpton on 18th with two at Easington the same day (one to 19th) and one at Brotton GC also on 18th. One was at East Newton on 22nd, two at Aldbrough from 23rd to 24th with one to 26th, two at Holmpton on 28th, two at Kilnsea on 29th and one at Cloughton on 30th. In November, singles were at Scarborough Castle and Kilnsea on 1st, South Gare on 8th, Holmpton on 9th and Skelton Castle on 13th. One was at Filey from 24th to the year-end and one likewise at South Gare from 25th to the year-end. Inland, one was at Birkby on 26th November, one at Pontefract on 7th December and one at Southfield Res from 23rd to 29th December.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*
Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

5.7.15.29.18

Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid August to mid November.

Two were at Kilnsea Beacon Lane from 27th to 29th September, with another nearby at Spurn Point also on 27th, which was trapped at Kew Villas on 29th (TMC: RS: PC). A first-winter was trapped at Flamborough Head on 27th September. At Spurn, three were present on 28th with one at The Warren and two at The Point (AR), with one in the Crown & Anchor on 30th and three at The Point on 2nd October, including a trapped adult male (GP: DH). One was at Easington on 13th October, with other singles the same day at Hummersea (JR) and Ness Point, Robin Hood's Bay (RSS). One was at Cliff Farm, Spurn on 14th October and the last of the year were two at Flamborough Head on 15th October.

TAIGA FLYCATCHER *Ficedula albicilla*
Vagrant: no previous records

0,0,0,0,1

Breeds to the east of the Ural Mountains to eastern Siberia. Previously considered to be a race of Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.

A first-summer male found and later trapped on the south side of Flamborough Head on 26th April (PAL:IM: JMP *et al*) was released at South Landing, where it showed to many observers until 29th. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:2 pp 66-68.

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*
Rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

7.6.3.9.2

This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but most are likely to be of continental origin.

Just two records, the worst showing for many years. One as at Tophill Low NR between 30th April and 2nd May (BB: PD: FXM *et al*), and a probable first-year male was at Broomfleet on 28th May (IH).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*
Scarce passage migrant; formerly bred

15.34.14.32.6

This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa. In the county it is a classic drift migrant on easterly winds, but in line with other drift migrants, there was a poor showing in 2003.

In spring a female was at Flamborough Head on 29th May (JMP), then singles at South Gare on 4th June (RCT *et al*) and Flamborough Head on 7th June (PAL: IM). An inland male was photographed at Barden Moor on 15th June (TM).

Two in autumn was exceptionally poor, with a juvenile at Spurn from 15th to 21st September (MGS *et al*) and one at Cattersty Sands on 13th October (NW *et al*).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

18,10,4,10,28

This species breeds from Scandinavia eastwards through to North America, with birds moving south in winter. It occurs as a coastal passage bird in the county, but small numbers also winter inland in Britain, often setting up territories and returning in successive winters. Numbers nationally have declined in recent years.

There was a good spring passage. The first flew west over Tophill Low NR on 24th March (JBT). This was followed by one on Fylingdales on 27th March (MJC), then one at Muston from 6th to 7th April (J & TGD *et al*), one at Blacka Hill west of Sheffield from 7th to 13th April (JSp *et al*), one on Sutton Moor, Keighley from 9th to 11th April, one in Dunsdale from 9th to 12th April (JF *et al*), one trapped at Northcliffe, Flamborough Head on 24th April (JMP *et al*) and one at East Newton from 24th April-1st May (AFJ *et al*).

A good autumn also produced a number of records. The first were on 13th October, with a single at Bempton Cliffs, two at South Gare (one to 18th) and one at Spurn Wire Dump which remained to 20th with two on 18th (GJV *et al*). Another was in The Triangle at Spurn from 14th to 19th October (GP *et al*), with one at Flamborough Head also on 14th (PAL). One at Aldbrough on 17th was also present from 25th to 30th (AFJ), and one was at Buckton on 17th (RES). On 18th singles were at Atwick (WFC) and Easington, with one at Flamborough Head on 19th (BH), and Filey CP on 23rd (PJD: CGH *et al*). At Spurn singles were at the Point (PJA) and in the Triangle on 9th November, with one at Flamborough Head the same day (AMA).

Inland, one was at the Gransmoor/Kelk junction from 20th October to 15th December (WFC) and one at Marfield NR on 14th November (PVI). One at Broomhead Moor from 23rd to 24th November was also reported from Redmires Res on 24th and one was at Welwick on 26th November.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

-, -, 3, 1, 8

Increasingly rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records.

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory. Recently split as a separate species from Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*.

There were two spring records: one flew west over Tophill Low NR on 24th March and one was at Hummersea on 17th April (SCB *et al*).

In autumn one was at Spurn on 14th and 15th October (AAH), with perhaps the same bird at Stone Creek from 18th to 19th October (AHa), then two were at Spurn on 9th November with one at Easington on 15th November. Finally, one was at Raywell on 23rd November.

ROSY STARLING *Sturnus roseus*

1,1,2,11,4

Rare visitor in spring and summer; 57 previous records (58 birds)

This irruptive species breeds from south Ukraine and central Turkey east to Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, occasionally breeding in south-east Europe.

In line with recent years another good showing in the county. One was photographed in a Redcar garden on 20th April (LC), an adult was at Kilnsea on 5th June (DJS *et al*) and a first-summer or adult was at South Gare on 10th June (AK *et al*).

A rare autumn record was a juvenile at The Warren, Spurn from 3rd to 6th September (PC: AJG *et al*).

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus*

0,1,2,1,1

Rare passage migrant in spring and autumn; 42 previous records, 2 in winter

Breeds commonly through continental Europe to NW Africa.

Typically scarce, the sole record was, not surprisingly, at Spurn where a male flew south calling over Clubley's and The Warren on 17th May (AJG: GJS: RS).

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

12,12,15,10,3

Scarce passage migrant; occasional very rare breeding species (first in 1992)

This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century, and it has bred sporadically in Britain since 1982 and Yorkshire since 1992.

A below par showing, with two in spring and one in autumn. A first-summer male was found on The Esplanade, Scarborough on 8th June. It sang there until 14th June performing well for its many admirers even singing from the top of a lamp post at times (JO'M *et al*). The only other spring record was at Spurn on 9th June (AAH).

The sole autumn record was at Kilnsea Beacon Lane from 13th to 20th September (NP *et al*).

PINE BUNTING *Emberiza leucocephalos*

0,0,1,0,1

Vagrant; 4 previous records

Breeds across temperate Russia from the Urals to South Siberia, Mongolia, and Sakhalin, with an isolated population in Central China. Small isolated wintering populations are regular in west Italy and central Israel. Otherwise winters south of breeding range from Turkestan east to China.

A probable first-winter female at Flamborough Head was seen by the chalets on the GC on 11th November (AMA) and was present on 12th at Northcliffe (MG). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding* 12:3 pp 125-129.



Rosy Starling

Spum Point, September 2003

D. P. A. Ward



Eurasian Spoonbill

Blacktoft Sands, May 2003

M. C. Richardson



Eurasian Spoonbills

Blacktoft Sands, May 2003

M. C. Richardson



Black-necked Grebe

Potteric Carr, June 2003

M. C. Richardson



Great Egret

Denaby Ings, July 2003

M. C. Richardson



Great Egret

Denaby Ings, July 2003

M. C. Richardson



Taiga Flycatcher

Flamborough Head, April 2003

G. A. Dayes



Great Spotted Cuckoo

Spurn Point, April 2003

M. C. Richardson

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*
Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

4,2,2,2,2

Breeds from Spain north-east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub-Saharan Africa.

One was at Spurn on 6th September (LJD *et al*) and another was at Spurn on 14th September (LJD: JW *et al*).

CATEGORY B

Species that were recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but are not accepted by BOURC as having occurred naturally since then. Ruddy Shelduck has now been moved into this category.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (N Africa, S Eurasia) BE*
Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status

Feral populations nearby across the North Sea may well provide a source for some of these records.

An immature was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 14th July. An unexpected bird for a sea-watch, three flew south (a male and two females) at Flamborough Head on 21st July. Two were at Brough Haven between 10th August and 6th September, with almost certainly the same two birds flying west at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 7th September, and one again at Blacktoft on 21st of that month.

CATEGORY D

Species whose status is being monitored the BOURC (see *Ibis* 136: p253).

MARbled DUCK *Marmaronetta angustirostris* W Eurasia, N Africa) DE

One with a damaged or drooping wing was at Rodley NR from 23rd July to 3rd August.

CATEGORY E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the provisional BOU category E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category. Also included here are some species that fall into other categories, such as Snow Goose (Category A) and Rose-ringed Parakeet (Category C).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* (Australia, New Zealand) E*

Two were at Thrybergh CP on 16th, 18th and 23rd January and again from 29th June to August. Another was at Wansford in the Hull Valley from 18th January to 23rd March and again from 1st July to 31st October. One was at Skirlington from 26th January to 24th February and again from 1st July to the year end. One was at Tong Park from 10th February to 25th May and again on 21st September and 13th November. Two were seen at Fairburn Ings on 15th March, and single birds were then recorded there until the first week of December. One was at Hornsea Mere on 19th and 27th April with two from 27th August occasionally to 11th November, with one to 13th December. A pair was resident on the River Aire near Myrtle Park. Two were at Potteric Carr on 17th and 20th August and two were at Skelton Lake from 24th August to 12th October. There were six sightings at Doe Park, Hewenden, Thornton Moor reservoirs and Ogden water from 23rd August until 7th October.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* (NC Asia, Siberia) E*

One was at Thrybergh CP on 4th January, one was at Golden Acre Park, Leeds on 2nd May, and one was unusually on Filey Brigg on 8th June.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* (Central Asia) E*

One was seen occasionally at Fairburn Ings throughout the year, and one was at Dacre Lake, Brandesburton, in February. One at Lowther Lake on 5th April and Swillington Ings from 9th June to 20th November may have been the same bird. One was at Nosterfield NR on four dates between 10th and 20th May, at Farnham GP on 16th May, at Hay-a-Park GP on 13th September, at Staveley NR on 19th October and Ladybridge Lake on 7th, 14th and 16th December. One flew NW up the Humber at Spurn with 12 Greylag Geese on 15th June.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* (N America & Greenland) AE*

A blue phase bird was at Harewood Park on 5th January. One was at Nicholson's Lagoons on several dates during January and February, and one was at Nosterfield NR on 15th November and at Bellflask Quarry next day. Particularly intriguing were two multiple sightings this year: a party of six birds (five white phase and one blue phase) flew over Eccup Res on 15th February (RM), and a party of 22 (15 white and 7 blue) flew north over Tophill Low NR on 15th August, seen in southern Ireland on or around 27th August. These birds preceded all other migrant wild geese and are considered most likely to be feral in origin.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* (Siberia & Alaska) E

A single bird was at Eccup Res on 4th January and regularly from 5th August to 20th September. It was also at Harewood Park on 12th October. Two presumed Emperor x Barnacle Goose hybrids were seen at Hornsea Mere on the 18th May.

HAWAIIAN GOOSE *Branta sandvicensis* (Hawaii) E

One was with the goose flock in Harewood Park on 16th February and 16th November.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* (N America) ACE*

A tame Lesser Canada Goose *B C parvipes* was present with the Canada goose flock at Redcar from 9th to 14th January.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (E Greenland, Svalbard, Novaya Zemlya) AE*

Many birds of feral origin are present in the county. Records between October and March may relate to birds of wild origin, particularly if associating with other geese flocks that appear to be wild birds, but the feral population makes adjudication a matter of conjecture. Coastal records of overshooting migrant birds will be treated in the five-year Report. This year an attempt has been made to collate birds thought most likely to be of feral origin.

A flock regularly winters at Hornsea Mere, with a peak of 138 on 1st February, and the provenance of these birds has always been debatable. Four were still present on 20th May. One was at Old Moor on 25th May, and again from 27th February to the year-end. Seven were at Frodingham Beck in the River Hull valley on 1st July and two in East Park, Hull on 4th July. At least six pairs were noted at Flamingoland in June, although breeding success is unknown. A small feral flock is also present in Primrose Valley near Filey, with at least eight present. Records elsewhere included two birds present at Gouthwaite Res and one at Pugneys CP throughout. A single bird was at Scalby Lodge Pond on 3rd, 7th, and 8th June with one at Burton Riggs 31st July and 2nd August. Five were at Hay-a-Park GP on 19th July.

One was at PHENR on 31st August and again on 13th September and several dates in December, with 75 back at Hornsea Mere by 29th September and 114 there on 2nd November. One was at Winterset from 27th August to 16th November and one at Thrybergh CP on 17th September. Twelve were in East Park, Hull on 16th December. Other records of came from Nicholson's Lagoons, Bellflask Quarry, Farnham GP, Nosterfield NR and Tophill Low NR.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* (N C Siberia) AE

One was at Eccup Res on 4th and 10th January, with one or more usually two birds noted throughout the year with the goose flock at Harewood Park. A pair, one of which was wearing a blue ring, arrived at Bellflask Quarry on 4th June, moving to Nosterfield NR on 5th, where they attempted to breed, but the eggs disappeared about 9th July and the birds left at the end of that month.

CAPE SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* (S Africa) E

One at seen at Watton NR on 29th March and 2nd April.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* (C & S America) E*

One at Anglers CP on 11th April, another on 10th June, and two there on 15th June. One spent most of December at Stocksbridge NR.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys* (C & S America) E

A drake was at Farnham GP on 3rd April, and presumably the same bird at Staveley NR on 11th and 23rd April.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (N America) E*

A drake was found at Hornsea Mere on 16th March. The next day presumably a different drake was found in a garden in Knaresborough. It flew off, and probably the same bird was at Hay-a-Park GP on 27th March, and on several dates up to the end of June, and again on 16th August, when a duck was present. A drake was also seen at North Ferriby Brickpond on 5th June. Singles were seen on several dates at both Knotford Nook and Elland GP.

CHILOË WIGEON *Anas sibilatrix* (S S America) E

A male was seen at Harewood Park on 5th January and 20th July.

CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera* (Americas) E*

A drake was seen on the River Derwent at Sherburn Ings on 15th March, also seen at Elsecar.

BLACK-HEADED DUCK *Heteronetta atricapilla* (S S America) E

One was at Farnham GP on 11th April.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus reevesii* (China) E*

Two males were seen in Roundhay in April. A male was near Crossley's Plantation near Huddersfield on 18th December.

ELLIOT'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus ellioti* (China)

One was seen in a garden in Swanland near Hull between 14th and 21st November.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* (China) CE*

Escaped or deliberately released species; has bred

A female was seen at Bretton Lakes on 10th April and two males from 9th December to the year end (SRG). A male was seen on 15th April at Burley Woodhead.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta gularis*

A bird with a blue ring was first seen at Northstead Manor Gardens on 27th May (NWA *et al*). It remained in the North Bay area, often in Scalby Beck on and off to at least mid October when it was seen in Jackson's Bay. It is thought possibly to have escaped from Blackpool Zoo.

EUROPEAN WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* (West Eurasia, Africa) AE

The escapes of this species are treated in the main systematic list.

TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura* (Americas) E

One was at Ackworth on 19th April.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* (C & S America) E

One was at Agill on 4th May.

SAKER *Falco cherrug* (S Eurasia) DE

One complete with jesses was seen of Lin Dike, Fairburn Ings, on 5th October.

GREY-HEADED GULL *Larus cirrocephalus* (Africa, S America) E

One was reported from BPNR on 26th April (*per Yorkshire Birding*).

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* (Australia) E

One was at Brough Airfield on 22nd June, one was in Knaresborough on 23rd July, another was in Saltburn on 25th and 26th July and one flew over Staveley NR on 19th August.

AFRICAN GREY PARROT *Psittacus erithacus* (W Africa) E

One was seen in Burley on 12th January and another in Deepcar in the summer.

PARAKEET sp. *Psittacula sp*

Two flew over Middlesbrough on 21st March.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* (Africa, India) CE*

There was a noticeable increase in records of this species this year, with 28 different reports, and although a smaller number of escaped individuals may account for these, the possibility that this increase was due to wandering individuals from the feral population established elsewhere in England must be considered.

Two visited a Kirklevington garden on 11th February. One flew west over Burniston on 18th March. One appeared in New Earswick near York on 12th April and remained until at least the second week in September, proving surprisingly secretive. Other spring reports included two at Heckmondwike, two at Middleton, five over Nunthorpe and one around Castleford (*per Yorkshire Birding*). One flew south over Brough Airfield Marsh and across the Humber on 24th April, one was at Fairburn Ings on 26th April and one flew south at Spurn on 27th May. One was at Burton Constable Woods on 24th June. In July, one was at Crosland Moor on 12th, and one flew over Nosterfield NR on 26th, while in August one flew along the River Aire at Woodlesford on 1st, one was in a Knaresborough garden on 10th and 11th and it or another frequented Caldene Fields (Bradford recording area) between 17th and 28th August. One flew over Beal Carrs on 3rd October and another over Balby Carr car park on 13th October. One visited a bird table in Great Ouseburn on 22nd November while one was at Oakwood near Rotherham on 28th. On 7th December one was well-watched at Tophill Low NR.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula alexandri* (India, SE Asia) E*

The resident bird first seen in 1997 was again present in Middlesbrough. One was at Spurn on 17th September.

PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis roseicollis* (S Africa) E

One in Atwick on 27th December was a very local escapee.

EASTERN ROSELLA *Platycercus eximius* (SE Australia) E

One spent several days in a Knaresborough garden during early June. One of the Golden-mantled form *ceciliae* flew south at Spurn on 29th July.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* (Palearctic) E*

One perched on a house roof in Bilton, Harrogate on 2nd June and remained in the area to 5th. A calling bird was present in the Harrogate district and a female found incubating three eggs on a rocky outcrop on 21st April. The eggs were substituted with hen's eggs and taken for incubation but found to be infertile. The bird remained in the area until the year-end, but no male was seen (*per Harrogate Report 2003 p 70*).

HIMALAYAN GREENFICH *Carduelis spinoides* (Asia)

One was at South Landing, Flamborough Head on 26th September.

YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY *Serinus mozambicus* (Africa) E

One was at Brotton on 15th October.

PALLAS'S ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus roseus* (E Palearctic) E

One was reported from Beverley on 6th April.

BLACK-HEADED WEAVER *Ploceus cucullatus* (Africa) E

A male visited a feeder in Starbeck in early April. One flew south at Spurn on 13th August, with another or the same there on 3rd, 29th and 30th September. One was around the Coastguard Cottages at Flamborough Head in October and November.

ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL *Estrilda melpoda* (Africa)

One frequented a feeder in Harrogate from 17th July to 4th August.

ZEBRA FINCH *Poephila guttata* (Australia) E

One at Arndale, Filey CP, on 5th March. One found dead at Skelton Castle on 6th November.

RED BISHOP *Euplectes orix* (Africa) E

One was seen at Potteric Carr on 20th August.

PURPLE GLOSSY STARLING *Lamprotornis purpureus* (Africa) E

One was present at Spurn from 16th to 28th September.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS REPORTS

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis*

2002: One flew north off Long Nab Burniston on 27th August (JHe), bringing the total for that year to five.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

1998: correction to YNU Report: Six pairs were present, not five, in the Lower Derwent Valley of which four pairs successfully raised 11 young. Three pairs were at Wheldrake Ings (one successful) and three at North Duffield Carrs.

2000: Single pairs were recorded by EN during late March and early May at Bank Island and North Duffield Carrs, with two pairs at Wheldrake. These pairs appeared to move on with no evidence of breeding attempts (CSR).

2001: Three pairs were proven to breed at North Duffield Carrs producing nine young, with at least four more probable pairs there. The first pair arrived on 9th April (CSR), with nest-building

noted from 11th. Three broods totalling six fledged and three unfledged young were seen on 24th May, with just two unfledged chicks remaining on 27th, one of which was caught and ringed on 27th May and the other on 11th June (NPA: KLB: CSR *et al*). A further pair was reported from Bank Island (*no date supplied*) and two birds were present at Wheldrake Ings on 24th April and 19th May, with three there on 27th April and again on 23rd May. These birds may have dispersed from North Duffield Carrs, or may constitute up to a further four possible pairs.

2002: Two pairs arrived at North Duffield Carrs on 28th March and were present to 7th April (CSR). A pair was present at Wheldrake Ings between 25th March and 5th April and a single bird at Bank Island between 30th March and 5th April. A bird was also present at Swantail Hide, Wheldrake between 25th and 31st March (DT). There was no evidence of breeding attempts.

LITTLE EGRET

2002: An adult was on the banks of the River Derwent at Thorganby on 21st June and again on 23rd June.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

2002: The bird reported at New Swillington Ings in the 2002 Report was on 18th January (DB).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

2001: One at Wheldrake Ings on 5th March.

2002: Two at Wheldrake Ings on 21st April, one remaining to 17th July, when last seen at North Duffield Carrs.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

1998: An adult drake was seen at Wheldrake Ings on 21st February, flying in from south and then making its way north after 20 minutes.

SPOTTED CRAKE

1997: A singing male was heard at Wheldrake Ings on 19th April, 6th May, 3rd June and 18th June (TED: CSR). A second singing male was heard at Wheldrake on 9th and 10th May (EBB: TED: CSR) at a different location. On 24th June three singing males were located at three new locations at Wheldrake, suggesting as many as five birds were present, although there is the possibility that at least one of the previous birds may have moved.

1998: 26 singing males were thought to be present in the Lower Derwent Valley, with 48 reports from 26 separate locations. The first bird was heard on 8th May, with 12 singing males by 9th, with four additional birds on 10th and five more on 11th. There were lengthy periods of calling over the first few days and a number of visiting birders were able to confirm records. Two birds were heard at Bubwith on 9th, 14th, 16th and 23rd May; one was heard at Wheldrake on 9th

and 30th May; one at East Cottingwith on 20th May and again on 21st June, and one at Bubwith Borrow Pits on 10th and 14th May and 21st June, the last date when calling was heard (CSR: TED *et al*). It is thought, therefore, that probably five birds remained on territory and probably bred, but no juveniles were seen.

1999: A minimum of four and a maximum of 12 calling males were reported in the Lower Derwent Valley, with results supported by a survey conducted on behalf of the RSPB (SCARBS). Birds calling from the same location on dates more than a week apart included singles at Wheldrake on 22nd and 30th April, North Duffield Carrs on 6th May and 21st June, Bank Island on 24th July and possible juvenile there on 8th August, and Bubwith on 24th April and 10th May (NPA: CSR: SJH *et al*).

2000: 17 reports from the Lower Derwent Valley were covered the period 29th April to 23rd June, with probably 12 different calling males present, four of which being heard at the same location on two or more occasions over 7 days apart. One was heard at Bubwith on 29th April, with another bird on 1st and 29th May (NPA: SJH: CSR *et al*). Three were heard at Bank Island on 2nd May, with one again heard on 21st and the second bird again on 11th June (NPA: SJH: CSR). Two were heard at Aughton Ings on 19th May, with one again on 23rd June (CSR). Three were heard at Wheldrake on 28th May and one at Thornton Ellers on 29th (CSR).

2001: Only three reports were received of calling males: at North Duffield Carrs on 15th and 26th May (CSR) and Bank Island on 2nd June (MFJ: SJH: CSR).

2002: Three calling males were heard in the Lower Derwent Valley. Two were heard at Bank Island on 28th May and 2nd June (CSR), and one heard at North Duffield Carrs on 29th May (FJW). The record of one reported from Blacktoft Sands on 20th August has been withdrawn at the observer's request, reducing the total for that year to three outside the Lower Derwent Valley.

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

2000: One was seen at North Duffield Carrs on 18th February (CSR).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

1995: A juvenile was present at Buckton from 22nd October to 7th November (DW *et al*).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus argentatus michahellis*

1999: One was seen at Thorganby Ings on 14th September.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

2002: An adult flew north at Holmpton on 7th March (FEK). A first-summer was at North Duffield Carrs on 2nd May.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

2002: One was at BLNR on 9th February, and one at North Duffield Carrs on 31st May.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

1998: One was swimming on floodwater at Bank Island on 10th January.

COMMON STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Eastern races *Saxicola t. maura/stejnegeri*

1990: A male at Flamborough Head on 7th May has now been rejected by BBRC. There have now been 42 acceptable records of this form in the county.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

2002: One at Holmpton on 13th October was omitted from the report but included in the total of 24 for the year.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

2002: Three, possibly four, were found at Brighton Ferry in the Lower Derwent Valley on 15th October, with one caught there on 17th. Another was found at Bank Island on 28th October, bringing the total for that year to 160 birds.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or their initials appear in a local report for the species included in the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

C D Abell	P Bone [PB]	N C Dawtrey [NCD]	A G Gough [AGG]
C Abbott [CA]	A J Booth [AJB]	G A Dayes [GAD]	S R Graham [SRG]
D R Abbott [DRA]	W I Boustead [WIB]	L J Degnan [LJD]	P K Greaves [PKG]
R Adams	P K Bowman [PKB]	J Dempsey [JD]	J Grieveson [JG]
N W Addey [NWA]	R Bradshaw	G Denison [GD]	P R Griffin
P J Alker [PJA]	P Bray [PBr]	M Denn [MDe]	J Grist [JGr]
K J Allison [KJA]	B G A Buckle	S Denny [SD]	T Guild
A M Allport [AMA]	R Butcher [RB]	J Denman [JDe]	A E Hague
B Armitage [BA]	D Bywater [DBy]	M L Denton [MLD]	J B Hague
J Armstrong [JA]	M Bywater	A Devine [AD]	W G Haines [WGH]
R H Appleby [RHA]	A Cale [AC]	T E Dixon [TED]	A M Hanby [AMH]
P Ashton [PA]	P J Carlton [PJC]	G E Dobbs [GED]	A Handy [AHa]
N P Askew [NPA]	G Carr [GCa]	C Dodsworth [CD]	C P Hansell [CPH]
M R K Askew	L Carr [LCa]	M Doveston [MD]	J T Harriman
[MRKA]	D Carroll [DC]	P J Dunn [PJD]	P Harrison
J E Atkinson [JEA]	M J Carroll [MJC]	J B Dunnett [JBD]	N Hart [NH]
I Austin [IA]	G P Catley [GPC]	G Edmonds	N R Hart
D Bacon [DB]	M Clay [MCl]	B Emson [BE]	J Harwood [JH]
P Bagguley [PB]	T R Cleaves [TRC]	G J Etherington [GJE]	E J Hediger [EJH]
D J Bamforth [DJB]	S Cochrane [SC]	B & S Evison	W Hesketh [WH]
J Barker	B Cockerill [BC]	R Evison [RE]	J Hewitt [JHe]
D Barnes	P Collins [PC]	S Exley [SE]	S Hey [SH]
M Barnett [MB]	J Cooke	R Fairclough	J Higgins [JHi]
J M Bayldon [JMB]	B Copley	D G Fairweather [DGF]	I Higginson
J Beaumont [JB]	T I Corbett	C Featherstone [CF]	B Hill [BH]
J A Beaumont [JAB]	M Corner [MCr]	G Featherstone [GF]	K Hindmarch [KH]
I Bedford [IB]	G Costello [GC]	T Feltham	S J Hinley [SJH]
D V Beeken [DVB]	I Court	J Fletcher [JF]	A Hirst [AH]
P D Bell	M Coverdale [MCo]	M Francis [MF]	S Hitchen
S C Bell [SCB]	M Cowton [MCw]	T Francis [TF]	D G Hobson [DGH]
G R Bennett	H Creber	M Garner [MG]	M G Hodges [MGH]
I Beveridge [IB]	M Cunningham [MC]	P Gething [PGe]	R D Holloway
R Bird	P Cunningham [PCu]	A J Gibson [AJG]	S E Holloway
S M Bird [SMB]	M Curtis	D Gibson	A Hood [AHo]
J Birch	W F Curtis [WFC]	P Gibson [PG]	R N Hopper [RNH]
B Blackburn [BB]	L Curwen [LC]	A Gill	C Home [CH]
E B Blake [EBB]	J Dacre [JDa]	L Gillard [LG]	K Home
J Blake [JBl]	J E Dale [JED]	JJ Gilroy [JJG]	J Horton [JHo]
M A Blick [MAB]	J & TG Davies	J Glendinning [JGl]	S J Huddleston [SJH]
R J Boland [RJB]	[J&TGD]	J H Goddard	J D Hull

N Hunt [NHu]	D R Middleton [DRM]	D Reese [DR]	R Swales [RS]
D A Hunter	J Middleton [JM]	R A Reese [RAR]	D Tate [DT]
D Hursthouse [DH]	Mrs M Mitchell [MM]	J Regan [JR]	G Taylor [GT]
A A Hutt [AAH]	F X Moffatt [FXM]	S C Renouf	G C Taylor [GCT]
T Isherwood [TI]	K Moir [KM]	B Richards [BR]	R C Taylor [RCT]
P V Irving [PVI]	D A Money [DAM]	C Richards [CR]	C C Thomas [CCT]
D S Ives [DSI]	S & A Morgan	P Riley	P Thomason [PTh]
P W Izzard	B & S Morland	A Roadhouse [AR]	P Tomlinson [PT]
J Jackson [JJ]	P R Morris [PRM]	N Robinson [NR]	J Thompson [JT]
E T James	P L Mountain [PLM]	A Robson [ARo]	J W Thompson [JWT]
A F Johnson [AFJ]	K R Mudd [KRM]	S M Root	R Tite [RT]
C G Johnson [CGJ]	T Munsey [TM]	M Rowbottom [MR]	J L Topham [JLT]
A M Johnston [AMJ]	P Munroe [PM]	R Rumbald	P T Treloar [PTT]
B Jones [BJ]	M G Neal [MGN]	J Sanderson [JS]	J M Turton [JMT]
A Jowett [AJ]	A Needham [ANe]	D J Scanlan	G J Vause
F E Kennington	I Nicholson [IN]	P M Scanlan	H VENABLES
Dr Kipling	S Nicholson [SN]	R E Scott [RES]	D M Waddington
A Kraus [AK]	A Norris [AN]	A Scutt [AS]	[DMW]
L Lancaster	J O'Malley [JoM]	G Sellars [GS]	S Wadsworth
P A Lassey [PAL]	A Otway [AO]	N P Senior [NPS]	B P Wainwright [BPW]
J Law	J K Palliser	P Senior [PSe]	I D Walker [IDW]
G P K Leach [GPKL]	E C Parker [ECP]	J L Sharp [JLS]	N Walker [NW]
G Y Leach [GYL]	N Parker [NP]	B Shorrocks [BS]	D I M Wallace
I H Leach	R T Parrish [RTP]	I C Simms	[DIMW]
P Leonard	V Parslow [VP]	D W Simpson	D P A Ward [DPAW]
G Light [GL]	S Pashby	S P Singleton [SPS]	J C Warwick
M Limbert	J M Pearson [JMP]	R S Slack [RSS]	S P Warwick
G M Lindley [GML]	S Peel [SPe]	A Slade	J Wasse [JW]
P A Linger	C D Pendlebury [CDP]	B Slater [BSI]	G V Watola [GVW]
J Lunn [JL]	K Pendlebury [KP]	P Smith [PS]	D Waudby [DW]
R Lyon [RL]	DH Pennington [DHP]	J Snowden [JSn]	I Webster [IW]
D McAlevy [DMc]	D J Perray [DJP]	G J Speight [GJS]	G Welch [GW]
T McEvoy [TMc]	J Pewtress	B R Spence [BRS]	P S Wells [PSW]
A G McLee [AMc]	N Pickering [NP]	J Spottiswoode [JSp]	T Weston [TW]
J McLoughlin [JMc]	G Picton [GP]	R J Sprakes [RJS]	H J Whitehead [HJW]
C McNaughton [CMc]	M J Pilsworth [MJP]	D J Standring [DJS]	S Wignill [SW]
D Mansell	S Pogson	R Stephenson [RSt]	P Willey [PW]
A Marshall [AM]	J D Pope	M Stoakes [MS]	J Wint [JW]
J Marsden [DJM]	J D Postlethwaite [JDP]	M Stone [MSt]	F J Woodall [FJW]
I Marshall [IM]	D Poyser [DP]	A Stoner [AS]	S Worwood [SWo]
I Martin	D Presst [DPr]	A F Stoye [AFS]	J Wozencroft [JWo]
R Martin [RM]	N A Preston [NAP]	M F Stoye [MFS]	J Wragg
J R Mather	D Proctor	M G Stoye [MGS]	A Zabukas [AZ]
G N Megson [GNM]	M Pygott [MP]	C C Straw [CCS]	
P Meredith [PM]	C S Ralston [CSR]	B Sumner [BS]	

LOCAL REPORTS

The following local society and club reports have been received, and readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant report.

Blacktoft Sands RSPB Ornithological Report 2003
Bradford Ornithological Group 2003
Cleveland Bird Report 2003 (Teessmouth Bird Club)
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve Report No. 34, 2003. RSPB
Filey Brigg Bird Report 2003 (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)
Flamborough Head Bird Report 2003 (Flamborough Head Ornithological Group)
Halifax Birdwatchers' Club Report 2003
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2003
Huddersfield Bird Club Report 2003
Hull Valley Report 2003 (Hull Valley Wildlife Group)
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club Report 2003
Old Moor and Broomhill Ings Bird Report 2003
Potteric Carr Bird Report 2003
Pugneys CP Report 2003
Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Report 2003
Scarborough District Bird Report 2003 (The Scalby Nabs Ornithological Group)
South Holderness Countryside Society (Newsletters and database)
Sprotbrough Flash and Don Gorge Ornithological Report 2003
Spurn Wildlife No. 13 (Spurn Bird Observatory)
Thorne Moors Bird Report 2003
Winterset Bird report 2003

Reports and lists were also received from:

Beacon Lane Ponds and Holderness Logs; Beal Carrs, Malham Tarn; New Earswick; Pudsey Ornithological Club; Swaledale Birds (website), Swillington Ings; Wharfedale Naturalists.

DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

British Birds Rarities

All national rarities must be described and accepted by BBRC to be included in the YNU report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will forward it immediately to BBRC. BBRC do request that all records be submitted through the County Recorder system. Failing this, we would at least expect to receive a copy. A list of species for which descriptions are required by BBRC for publication in their *Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain* is available from *British Birds*.

County Rarities

Descriptions are required for the species listed below.

Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
British Storm-petrel (sight records)
Leach's Storm-petrel
Black-crowned Night Heron
Purple Heron
Bean Goose (to race/species)
Ruddy Shelduck
American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Surf Scoter
European Honey Buzzard
White-tailed Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Spotted Crake
Corn Crake
Stone-curlew
Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Grey Phalarope
Pomarine Skua [inland records only]
Long-tailed Skua [inland records only]

Ring-billed Gull
Sabine's Gull [inland records only]
Roseate Tern [inland records only]
Black Guillemot
European Bee-eater
Greater Short-toed Lark
Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Common Nightingale (away from breeding area)
Cetti's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler (inland records)
Melodious Warbler
Dartford Warbler
Pallas's Leaf Warbler (inland records)
Yellow-browed Warbler (inland records)
Red-breasted Flycatcher (inland records)
Eurasian Golden Oriole
Woodchat Shrike
Red-billed Chough
European Serin
Rosy Starling
Common Rosefinch
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Little Bunting

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Committee will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review (including *Caspian Gull*, *Black-bellied Dipper* and *Siberian Chiffchaff*).

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of commoner species, (e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail), or to support records of migrant birds out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

In the cases of closely related species groups such as American/Pacific Golden Plover, pratincole sp. and dowitcher sp. where no specific identification has been reached, BBRC will not judge these records. They will be considered by the YNU for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The committee is willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local Groups and Societies.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field before reference to any text books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms for submitting details based upon those by the BBRC can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder or by e-mail from the editors.

RARE BREEDING BIRDS IN YORKSHIRE

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and *British Birds*. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for all species on Schedule I of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, plus all other species dealt with by the Panel, including other rare birds and scarcer non-native species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets etc. Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories:

Possible

Probable

Proved

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species that are known to have bred, or attempted to have done so in recent years, in Yorkshire, are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe	Common Quail	Bluethroat
Great Bittern	Spotted Crake	Black Redstart
*Gadwall	Corn Crake	Fieldfare
Northern Pintail	Avocet	Marsh Warbler
Garganey	*Little Ringed Plover	Firecrest
*Common Pochard	Black-tailed Godwit	*Bearded Tit
European Honey Buzzard	Little Gull	Eurasian Golden Oriole
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Roseate Tern	*Common Crossbill
*Hen Harrier	*Little Tern	Parrot Crossbill
Montagu's Harrier	*Barn Owl	Common Rosefinch
*Northern Goshawk	Eagle Owl	
*Eurasian Hobby	*Woodlark	

In the case of the Less Scarce Species (marked * above), the VC Recorder prepares a summary each year for the Panel.

For the Rare Species, recording forms are completed detailing the status, success and site of each pair.

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: p 102 – 103, and is on the RBBP website.



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